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April 471

CANNABIS CUP 27

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Cannabis Cup

BC Bud Depot

AND REEFERMAN SEEDS

NOVEMBER
2004



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10 YEARS

OF CHAMPIONSHIP BREEDING!

DECEMBER
2014



10 YEARS YOUNGER: Reeferman (Charles Scott, left) and BCBD's Matt Harvey each placed first overall at the High Times Cannabis Cup in 2004, in Amsterdam. Charles took home the Sativa crown with Love Potion #1 and Matt's winning Indica was BC God Bud.



In 2014 Charles (2nd from right) and Matt (center) were back in Amsterdam to lead a grower's seminar at the 27th Annual Cannabis Cup.

BC Bud Depot won an award with Night Nurse, a joint project and hybrid of Reeferman's Harmony.



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- EARLY PURPLE KUSH - \$100
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THE PURPS - \$90 (())
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SWEET GOD - \$75 (())
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THE BLACK - \$75 (())
BC MANGO - \$75 (())
BC BLUEBERRY - \$75 (())
THE BIG - \$75 (())
SHIATSU KUSH - \$75 (())
SWEET ISLAND SKUNK - \$75 (())
TEXADA TIMEWARP - \$75 (())
ANIMAL COOKIES - \$90
BC SWEET TOOTH - \$75
BC CHEESE - \$75
NIGHT NURSE - \$90 (NEW WINNER!)
707 HEADBAND - \$75
BC HASH PLANT - \$75
BC NORTHERN LIGHTS - \$75
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BC KUSH - \$60
PURPLE BUDDHA - \$60
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AMNESIA HAZE - \$75
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ALBINO RHINO - \$60
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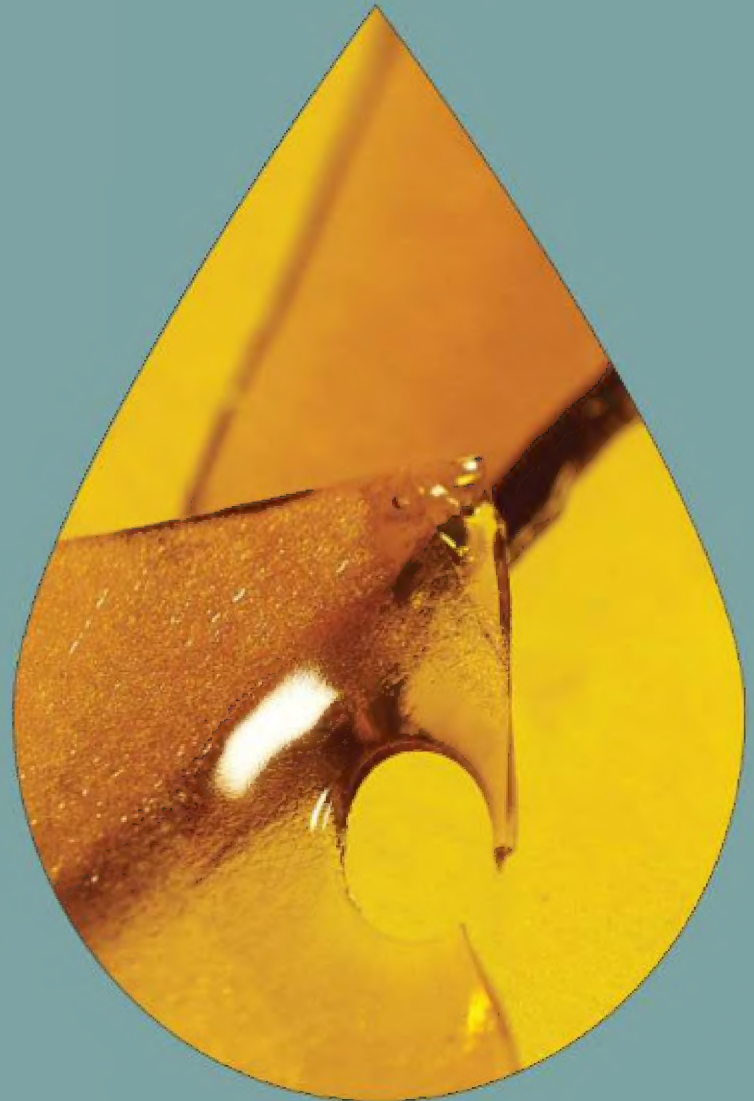
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HIGH TIMES APRIL



Marijuana refugees from around the world started arriving in the Netherlands in the 1970s and '80s, fleeing prosecution at home and seeking the unique freedom from persecution that the Dutch sense of tolerance allows.

—“Fight for Your Right to Party”, page 73

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One of the glass industry's top distributors invites us into his private showroom to marvel at the masterpieces by top artists nationwide.
By Dan Skye

56 The Harvest Moon of Jah Goo

When harvest comes to an end, a whole new phase of cannabis cultivation begins. Drying and curing are an essential part of creating a superior product. *By Nico Escondido*

73 Fight for Your Right to Party

Tolerance for tokers seems to be receding in Amsterdam. Learn how the latest Cannabis Cup persisted in the face of official oppression—and how we can legitimize the Dutch pot industry once and for all. *By Elise McDonough*

97 Too Large: The Rise and Fall of the Norton Boys


In the mid-2000s, two brothers barely out of their teens started one of the most successful medical marijuana dispensaries in California. After being maliciously raided by the Feds and local police, they fought for seven years to stay out of prison. *By Chris Simunek*

109 The High Times Interview: Dutch Masters

Ben Dronkers, Wernard Bruining, Nol van Schaik and Simon of Serious Seeds are considered pioneers of the Dutch cannabis scene. In four lively interviews, these modern-day Dutch masters of marijuana weigh in on the current state of pot in the Netherlands and the prognosis for legalization.
By Samantha Nicholas

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☛ Coffeeshop Crawl Winner

At the 27th Cannabis Cup, we invited all of the judges to enter the Coffeeshop Crawl. If they visited the 26 coffeeshops that entered strains in the event, and got their guidebook passport stamped by all, they were eligible to win a trip to our U.S. Cannabis Cup in Denver over the 4/20 weekend. We're pleased to announce that Phil from Cleveland won the contest. Thanks to everybody who made the journey!

☛ Glass Artist of the Month

In October of 1996, Puff Danny flew from Detroit to Seattle to take a crash course in lampworking. He returned to the Great Lake State and set up a small home studio and practiced for a year and a half. Two years later, he decided to return to Seattle for more lessons.

Back in Michigan, Puff Danny continued to hone his skills. He began teaching friends. "Over the years," he says, "I've had the chance to work with many great glassblowers like Alex Vicknair, Adam Grafius, Nick Voorhees and Marc Vandenberg. But recently, I've been refocusing my glassblowing. I now draw inspiration from friends like Drew Kupps and Jeremy Ross."

In 2010, Danny opened Puff Danny's Glass



Puff Danny heats up Michigan.

Boutique to showcase his work and that of his glassblowing colleagues. His success is a product of the glass industry's incredible capacity for sharing knowledge. Puff Danny says his tight-knit group of Michigan artists has "amplified my creativity."

"I mix old-school color with newer techniques," says Puff Danny. "My focus has always been on producing quality, affordable pipes. That's what the average stoner is looking for."

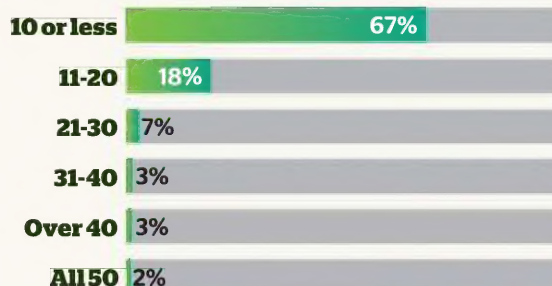
Check out Puff Danny's work at hightimes.com.

POT POLL

How Many States Have You Toked In?

Marijuana's favorability may be increasing, but in 46 US states, you'll still be committing a "crime" for toking up—unless you're a medical patient. But that's never stopped any of us. We asked how many US states you've inhaled in. Of the 1,100 respondents, two-thirds said "10 or less." But 27 boasted they'd gotten high in all 50. Even more of you said they were lying!

Cast your vote in our latest poll online!



☛ Ganja Galleries Galore

High Times has always been considered the *National Geographic* of pot photography. (Actually, we consider them the *High Times* of photo-journalism—but we digress.) In February, we get a stoner makeover. That means bigger pictures and more of them! Check out the best of *High Times* pot-ography!

☛ Love Is In the Air

At the beginning of the New Year, we asked our online audience to send a special valentine to Mary Jane. We didn't care how you expressed your affection—and the results certainly reflected those specifications. We received photos, drawings, poems—even a few haiku. On February 14, check out our online feature documenting how lovestruck stoners feel about pot in "My Valentine to Mary Jane."



Miss April 2015

NAME: Ashley
SCREEN NAME: @chinakatsunflower
CITY: San Francisco, CA
OCCUPATION: Model, dancer
AGE: 27

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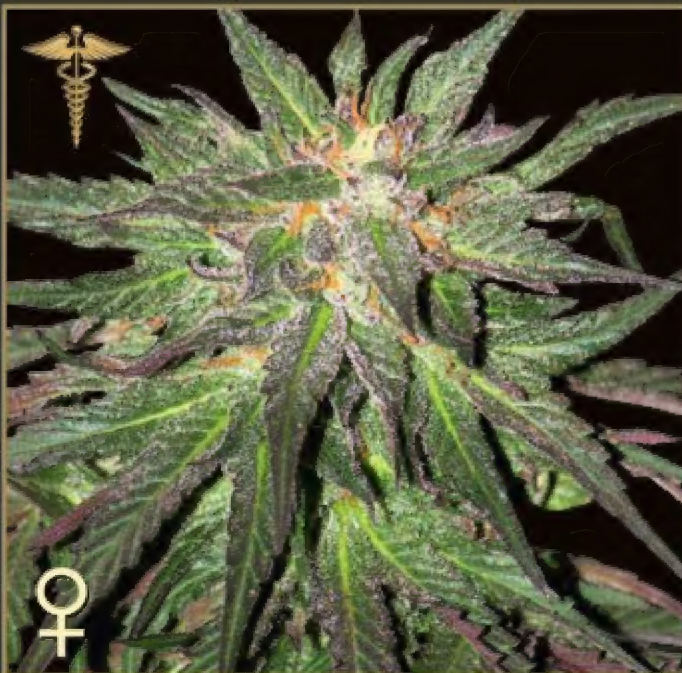
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The Fight Isn't Over Yet

In 1995, I EXPERIENCED MY FIRST CANNABIS CUP. IT WAS ALSO THE FIRST TIME I VISITED AMSTERDAM. I REMEMBER WALKING INTO THE GREEN HOUSE, TRYING TO LOOK COOL AS I ATTEMPTED TO FIGURE OUT EXACTLY HOW ONE PURCHASES BUDS IN A DUTCH COFFEESHOP. LUCKILY, SOMEONE WAS DOING JUST THAT, SO I SIMPLY FOLLOWED HIS LEAD. THE DELIGHTFUL MEMORY OF LIGHTING UP WITH A CUP OF COFFEE IN A COMFORTABLE, CONVIVIAL ENVIRONMENT REMAINS WITH ME STILL.



The Amsterdam experience at the Cannabis Cup has been an inspiration to activists the world over. The vision of transplanting the Dutch model of tolerance in the soil of one's home country became a tangible goal.

Nineteen years later, the achievements in cannabis legalization that we've made in the United States are enormous. There's still a long way to go, but widespread optimism pervades our community. Everyone knows that there's no turning back the clock this time.

Ironically, though, there's a bit of backsliding going on in the Netherlands: The number of coffeeshops

has been steadily reduced, and an animus toward cannabis—as well as the tourism it generates—is palpable. That's what High Times encountered when we mounted our 27th Annual Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam.

The event was targeted by the city government from the moment our preparations began. Venues were threatened with the revocation of their permits, and coffeeshops were compelled to tread lightly in their support of the event. Rest assured, the Cannabis Cup survived, but its expo—the primary attraction for judges—was barred from opening its doors, under the threat of mass arrests.

Elise McDonough, the author of *Marijuana for Everybody*, chronicles the 27th Cup in "Fight for Your Right to Party" and examines the new opposition to pot tourism in Holland. While I was there, I asked four pioneers of the Dutch coffeeshop scene for their perspectives. It's clear that Holland's cannabis activists have some hurdles ahead.

Sadly, harassment and oppression are nothing new to those who champion cannabis. The one major lesson we learned from the Cannabis Cup is that we must never grow complacent in the fight for marijuana freedom. Despite the encouraging news on so many fronts, we have got to keep the pressure on.

After all, our opponents won't be giving up anytime soon.

Dan Skye
Editor in Chief

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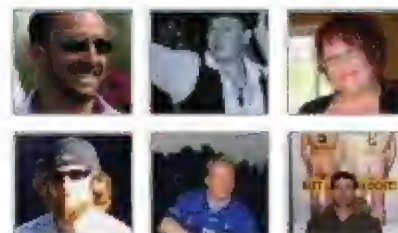
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Cup of Drama

I took my girlfriend and myself to our first Cup. I bought early bird tickets in June, saved the whole summer to go, got my luggage stolen within the first three hours, had the whole disappointing debacle of not having an Expo—and still had the best vacation of my life. It was moving to see everyone in the cannabis community band together to say “No!” We aren’t letting the powers that be interfere with our right to celebrate our reverence for the cannabis plant. Big fan since college. Thanks for your time and hard work.

Brian H.

Thanks, Brian. We were all disappointed in the treatment High Times received in Amsterdam after 27 years of holding the event there. But, like you say, our community did “band together.” And that was a great experience.

Don't Say That Word!

The huge vote (69 percent) in November to legalize pot in Washington D.C. owes something to the D.C. Cannabis Campaign’s use of the word “cannabis”—not marijuana. All other future pro-pot initiatives and referendums should likewise use “cannabis” in their appellation or title. And in any case, cannabis is the more scientific term, so who can complain? Let’s not forget this lesson, folks!

Fred
Annapolis, MD

Oklahoma Pot—Sooner than Later!

Medical marijuana will be on the ballot in Oklahoma next election. The support of legalization is vast in the state. Myself, I’m a medical patient; I have ulcerative colitis. I tried *everything* to get myself into remission; Remicade infusions (much like chemo), 6-mp, corticosteroids, mesalamine pills, suppositories and enemas, colonoscopies, opioids—basically, you name it, I’ve tried it.

In the end, only one thing helped with the inflammation—marijuana. Specifically, Cannatonic or other high-CBD strains. In pursuit of health and happiness, I found myself criminally charged for possession with intent. Because I buy my medicine in bulk, I’m deemed a criminal by current legislation. Hopefully sometime in the near future that can be remedied.

For people who don’t suffer ailments like these, it’s easy to cast patients like myself. Luckily, my doctor is smarter



Because I buy my medicine in bulk, I'm deemed a criminal by current legislation. Hopefully sometime in the near future that can be remedied.

than your average bear. He firmly believes that cannabis will help people with inflammatory diseases. He openly admitted to growing when he was younger and has said that there's hope for people like myself, as long as cannabis culture continues to question the legitimacy of its legal status.

This doctor got me off of the pain meds other doctors had me on and secretly “advised” me to invest in high-CBD products and to keep an eye out for advances in the field.

The future of our culture is bright. I’m proud to be a subscriber. I hope you guys keep fighting the good fight.

We’re all counting on you... no pressure.

Jason B.
Stillwater, OK

The Jay-Hawk State

I’m a member of a group called All Natty out of Wichita, KS. We have a very real chance of decriminalizing marijuana here in April and would greatly

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appreciate any help you could provide. The plan is to launch a massive campaign informing people of the vote date. We will be printing stickers, coasters for bars, even throwing a free show with local artists—you just have to register to vote to get in. Please let me know if there’s any way you could help. I look forward to working with you guys. We could decriminalize Wichita!

Natural Nate

Good luck! Kansas shares a border with Colorado, so there’s plenty of reason to hope for success.

Worst Query of the Year

I’m an artist/man-baby currently living in Chicago. The reason I’m contacting you is because I have an idea for a story. I actually dreamt the concept up while sleeping and, like they say, you should always follow your dreams. My idea goes something like this. I’ve never tried/smoked weed before, but I like conspiracy theories and enjoy talking about the occasional “alien” now and then. Who doesn’t? But I’ve honestly never taken a puff or a drag from a marijuana cigarette.

I’ve really never had the urge. From what I’ve experienced, weed just seems like a gateway drug to black lights. Black lights aside, though, what brings me to your doorstep is I’m also broke. I gotta pay rent!

I just got an email from my landlord saying that I owe \$877 bucks in back rent. I’d like to propose something that could perhaps be mutually beneficial to both of us—that is, I work for *High Times* as your straight-edge correspondent guy reporting on some “Blueberry-Stank-Nut” (or whatever the kids call it) or some hippie guy trying to tell me his bong is art, and you guys help pay my rent. This could be a little journalistic experiment with all the bells and whistles.

I’m willing to validate my straight-edginess through a lie detector test for that extra level of journalistic authenticity.

Jason D.

Where do we start? You don’t smoke, you spout tired clichés about those who do, but you want to write about pot for *High Times* because you’re in debt. Dude—GTFO!

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April 2015 *High Times*

WHAT'S IN YOUR WAREHOUSE? Another day comes to a close in Northern California. Frank, who works at Camp Cool Farms in Mendocino County, closes the door on a warehouse full of freshly cut buds while his trusty poodle takes a final look around the premises. Read all about the art of drying and curing in Nico Escondido's "The Harvest Moon of Jah Goo," on page 56. *Photo by Dan Skye*

**Contact
High**





April 2015 **High Times**

17

GIRL SCOUT GREENERY Girl Scout Cookies is a cross of OG Kush and F1 Durban Poison. The intertwining of these two strains resulted in an exquisitely aromatic smoking experience with both a physical and cerebral high. Read about how GSC got a medical collective into hot water in "Too Large: The Rise and Fall of the Norton Boys" on page 97. *Photo by Freebie*

**Contact
High**





April 2015 *High Times*

THE COFFEESHOP CRAWL Judges at the 27th Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam used a map to chart the the best route for all 26 coffeeshops entered in the Cup, while Dutch authorities took an active interest in keeping *High Times* joints unlit at the Expo. In the end, they failed. We cover the Amster-drama in "Fight For Your Right to Party" on page 73. Photo by Lochfoot

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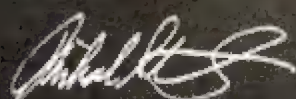
... Come on ... Really?

Look, you're smarter than that. We all know the imitation colas you buy from discount stores are "reverse-engineered" to copy Coca-Cola® too. But is it exactly the same? Absolutely not!

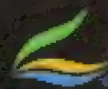
Everyone knows, at the end of the day, there is only one "real thing".

Bottom line is... can you or *do you really* want to risk your valuable cannabis crops and your hard-earned money on unproven claims sold on the basis of "cheap"?

Sincerely,



Michael "BigMike" Straumietis

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Highwitness News

Bed and
Breakfast
Jerry Style!



Entertainment

Marijuana Migos

Atlanta rap trio blazes more than the stars. p.34



Food

Ganja Teacakes

It's tea time for tokers! p.40



Current drug-testing protocols are anything but precise.



How long is marijuana detectable in blood?

Blood tests primarily identify the presence of delta-9-THC, the psychoactive component in cannabis. THC possesses a shorter detection window in blood compared to carboxy-THC in urine. Following inhalation, the compound achieves maximum blood concentrations within minutes and may be present at low levels up to 10 hours later. However, some studies of habitual tokers have identified THC residue in the blood for far longer periods of time. Specifically, a 2009 study by investigators at the National Institutes of Health reported that two out of 25 subjects continued to test positive for the presence of THC in the blood at levels above 2 nanograms per milliliter (ng/ml) seven days after ceasing cannabis use.

Drug Testing and Pot: Fact vs. Fiction

Worried about a drug test? Get your facts straight. Here's the lowdown on the persistence of THC in your body. *By Paul Armentano*

How long is marijuana detectable in urine?

Urinalysis identifies the presence of the carboxy-THC metabolite, a primary byproduct of delta-9-THC. Because carboxy-THC is fat-soluble, it has a prolonged detection period in urine compared with the metabolites of many other controlled substances. Clinical studies indicate that a single dose of THC may result in detectable levels of carboxy-THC for a period of three to

five days. For occasional consumers, the traces of this metabolite may be present for up to a week; typically, however, they will have fallen below the cut-off levels used in standard workplace drug tests some days earlier. Habitual consumers may possess low residual quantities of carboxy-THC for several weeks, with a handful of case studies in the scientific literature reporting the trace presence of this metabolite some 90 or even 100 days post-abstinence.

Can THC and carboxy-THC levels spike during abstinence?

Yes. Clinical studies designed to detect the presence of THC in the blood and carboxy-THC in the urine during periods of monitored abstinence reported intermittently elevated levels of both substances irrespective of new cannabis use. This phenomenon is especially likely to be reported in habitual marijuana users subject to frequent urine tests, such as those on probation. These fluctuations may be triggered by various factors, including stress and changes in one's diet, and may result in a negative test result being followed by a positive one.

Does a positive drug-test result indicate recent marijuana use or impairment?

No. According to a report by the US Department of Justice: "A positive [urine] test result, even when confirmed, only indicates that a particular substance is present in the test subject's body tissue. It does not indicate abuse

« or addiction; recency, frequency, or amount of use; or impairment.” Ditto for a positive blood-test result. According to “Drugs and Human Performance,” the US Department of Transportation’s online factsheet: “It is difficult to establish a relationship between a person’s THC blood or plasma concentration and performance impairing effects It is inadvisable to try and predict effects based on blood THC concentrations alone, and currently impossible to predict specific effects based on [carboxy-THC] concentrations.”

Can exposure to secondhand smoke trigger a positive drug-test result?

In theory, yes; in practice, it probably won’t. This is the conclusion of an October 2014 study published in the *Journal of Analytical Toxicology*. Six non-smokers spent 60 minutes in a poorly ventilated room while six additional subjects smoked pot of various potencies. Following their exposure, the non-smokers produced a series of urine specimens over the next 34 hours. While many of the specimens provided in the hours immediately following their exposure tested positive for the presence of carboxy-THC at levels above 20 ng/ml, only one subject tested positive a

It is difficult to establish a relationship between a person’s THC blood or plasma concentration and performance impairing effects.

single time above 50 ng/ml—the standard cut-off for a preliminary workplace drug test. According to the study, “these results indicated that extreme smoke exposure can produce positive tests at lower cutoff concentrations, but not generally at the higher initial test cutoff concentration in general use [for the workplace].”

Can legal drugs trigger false positive results for cannabis?

False positive test results for carboxy-THC are uncommon. However, a 2010 scientific review reported that consumption of the analgesic drugs ibuprofen and naproxen at therapeutic doses could trigger false positives for cannabis on immunoassay (presumptive) drug screens. A separate clinical trial in 2011 also reported that prescription doses of the anti-retroviral drug efavirenz will cross-react for carboxy-THC in immunoassay tests. However, none of these substances are likely to be mistakenly identified as cannabis on a GC/MS (gas

chromatography/mass spectrometry) test. By contrast, the use of prescription drugs containing synthetic THC, such as Marinol or Cesamet, will result in a true positive for carboxy-THC.

Is there any surefire way to beat a drug test on short notice?

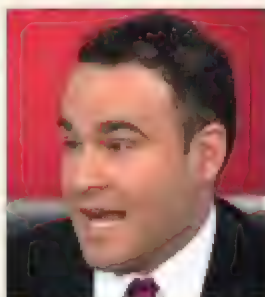
No, although the results of a 2011 trial published in the *Journal of Analytical Toxicology* indicate that zinc may be a potential solution. In that study, subjects who consumed 200 mg of oral zinc supplements shortly after engaging in marijuana smoking were able to temporarily mask the presence of carboxy-THC in their urine. The study’s authors concluded that “the consumption of zinc supplements taken orally after light marijuana use can interfere with the detection of THC [metabolites] in urine samples for a 12- to 18-hour period.” ★

Paul Armentano is the deputy director of NORML.

HIGH FIVE

Pigheaded Prohibitionists

The anti-pot crowd is losing—and remains defiantly stupid. *By Mark Miller*



Kevin Sabet

Director of Smart Approaches to Marijuana

In January, this mouthpiece for the Drug War wrote: “We have been promised great things with legalization. However, we can expect to be let down. Voters in other states should watch Colorado closely and engage in a deep conversation about where they want this country to go. Buyer, beware.” No, Kevin—prohibitionist, beware! Your days are numbered!



Ann Coulter

Conservative columnist Appearing on Piers Morgan Live

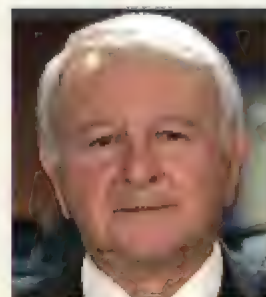
In January, Coulter argued that legal weed actually damages the economy: “You can’t get anything done with a pothead. I’m going to be paying for their food, housing, now for their health care, apparently, because they can’t perform any useful jobs.” Coulter admitted on the same show: “I have done TV after a drink. I’m drunk right now.” That explains everything.



Mark Brunell

Former NFL quarterback

“There’s really no place for marijuana in the NFL,” Brunell told ESPN. “It is harmful. It hurts brain function [and] brain development. Marijuana can ruin lives.” The truth is that pot is showing promise as a potential neuro-protectant against concussions. Maybe it would’ve helped Brunell: He made over \$50 million while playing, but declared bankruptcy in 2010. It sure couldn’t have hurt!



Carlton Turner

Director of Drug Free Florida

Turner heads the anti-marijuana group Drug Free Florida. In 1986, as Reagan’s Drug Czar, Turner said pot turns people gay and leads to AIDS. Last year, he elaborated: “I never said smoking marijuana will make you gay—I said if you’re in the subculture, you’re going to be exposed to this. Young people who use drugs, you find their inhibitions against everything are gone.” Much like Turner’s credibility.



Maureen Dowd

New York Times columnist

Last January, Dowd visited Colorado and ate a pot chocolate bar. She described the ordeal: “I barely made it from the desk to the bed, where I lay curled up in a hallucinatory state for the next eight hours. I was panting and paranoid, sure that when the room-service waiter knocked and I didn’t answer, he’d call the police.” Hey, Maureen! Next time, write about what you know.

Fly High



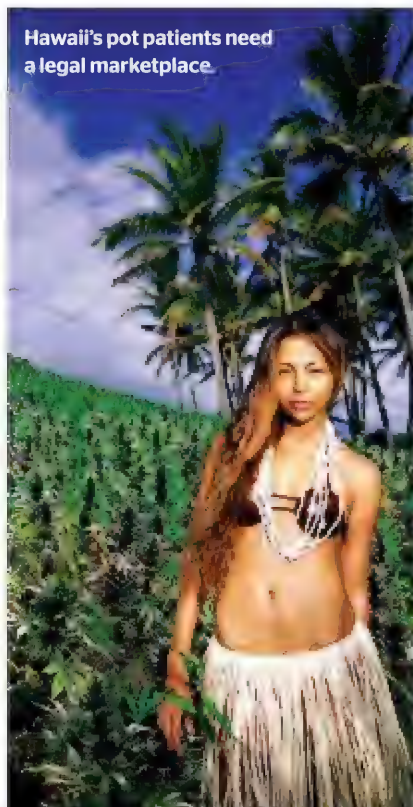
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Hawaii's pot patients need a legal marketplace.



Aloha Dispensaries

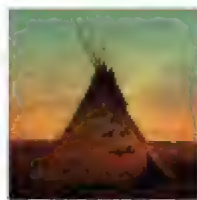
A comprehensive report released by Hawaii's state auditor recommends implementing dispensaries in the Aloha State. The Hawaiian legislature legalized medical marijuana in 2000, but the current law doesn't permit dispensaries and limits caregivers to only one patient apiece.

A bill that would allow the creation of dispensaries was introduced in the 2014 legislative session, but lawmakers failed to pass it. The auditor's report wisely recommends changes to the bill, including granting regulatory oversight to the State Department of Health in an effort to get lawmakers on board.

Perhaps most importantly, the report acknowledges the dilemma that Hawaii's pot patients face. There is currently no way to buy cannabis legally in the state. Because of this, patients must either grow their own pot or turn to the black market. Dispensaries would create a legal marketplace while allowing for proper quality control—including gauging potency and eliminating contaminants.

The auditor also advises that the state provide sufficient money—roughly \$400,000—to get the program started, with the eventual goal of covering its operational costs by establishing application and licensing fees for dispensaries, similar to those in other medical pot states.

REEFER ON THE REZ



The Obama administration has instructed US Attorneys not to stand in the way of Native American tribes growing or selling marijuana on their reservations. The new policy opens the door to legal pot shops and grow ops on the 325 federally recognized reservations across the country.

The Justice Department requires the tribes to adhere to eight federal guidelines, including prohibiting pot sales to minors, preventing the revenue from going to gangs, and banning the transport of weed to states where it is still criminalized.

While marijuana could be a boon—similar to tobacco sales and casinos—for tribes lacking viable income sources, it remains to be seen how many will take advantage of the new policy.

School Scorns Cannabis Cash



Think of the Children!

The hard part about raising money for a worthy cause is usually raising the money. However, a Washington State businessman who held an auction in order to donate the proceeds to a local school district found that it was almost impossible to give that money away.

Yes, the money was legit, and yes, schools still covet cash from well-intentioned donors. But in this case, the well-intentioned donor was a pot farmer—and the school district flatly refused his dirty marijuana money.

Randy Williams is one of only a handful of licensed cannabis cultivators in Yakima Valley. In an effort to give back to his community, he held a legal pot auction and raised \$14,000 for the Prosser school district. However, the district's superintendent, Ray Tolcacher—an outspoken opponent of the state's recreational-use law—used the opportunity to take a stand against legal weed and turned the money down. School officials claim that accepting cannabis cash sends the wrong message to students—even though schools are routinely funded by lottery money and taxes raised from the sale of alcohol and tobacco.

Williams eventually did find some grateful recipients for his largesse: He gave \$13,000 to an unidentified family in need and the remaining \$1,000 to the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars).

Florida Fails Drug Test

A federal appellate court unanimously struck down a 2011 Florida law mandating drug tests for all welfare applicants—even those not suspected of illegal substance use. The three-judge panel found that Florida officials did not demonstrate there was a “more prevalent, unique or different drug problem among [welfare] applicants than in

the general population.”

Florida's Republican governor, Rick Scott, had justified the law by claiming that it protected children from parents who might use welfare funds to score drugs. However, the law backfired on the cash-strapped state, as Florida was forced to reimburse applicants who paid out-of-pocket for their drug tests and passed (each test cost about \$30). Since only 2.6 percent of the applicants failed, the

state ultimately had to pay out \$118,140 in only the first four months—more than what it saved by denying welfare to applicants testing positive for drugs.

The case originated in 2011 after the ACLU sued Florida on behalf of US Navy veteran and single father Luis Lebron. Although a federal judge decided the welfare drug-test law was unconstitutional in 2013, the state appealed, leading to the appellate court ruling.



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GANJA
GUM

Chew on this: A bio-tech company is producing a pharmaceutical-grade cannabis chewing gum containing psychoactive THC. The gum, branded as MedChew, uses a slow-release formula similar to nicotine gum to allow for more efficient absorption of cannabinoids through the mouth lining, bypassing the digestive tract altogether.

Axim Biotechnologies currently markets CanChew gum with cannabidiol (CBD), but MedChew is the first THC-specific medical marijuana gum.

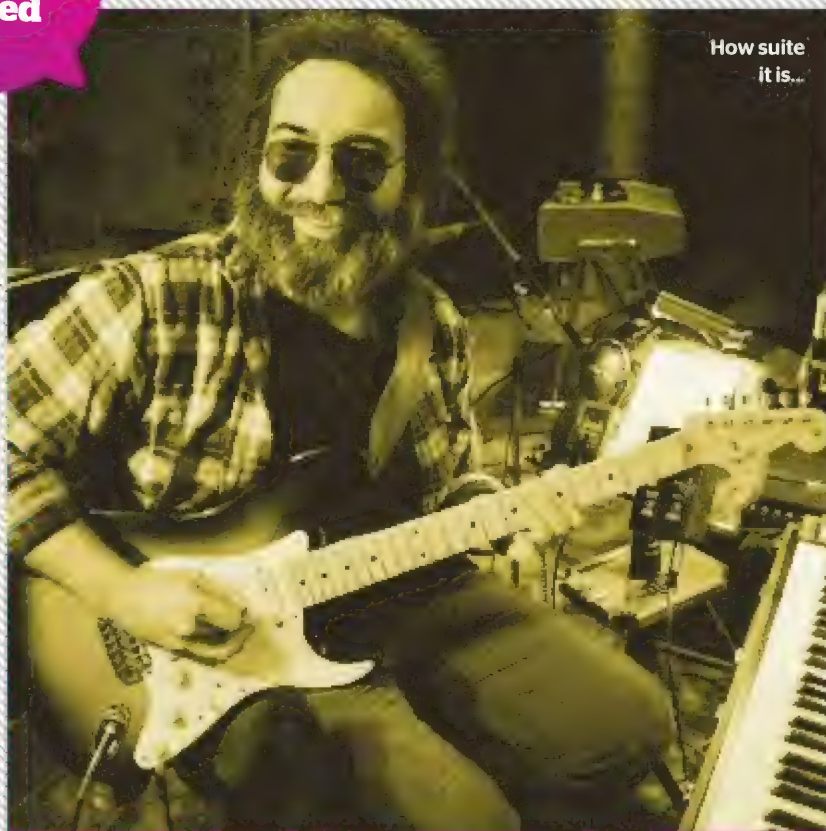
Axim recently announced plans to build a manufacturing facility in the Netherlands, where it will also cultivate cannabis at a 1.25-acre production site. Clinical trials for the product with multiple sclerosis patients and others are currently underway in Amsterdam. If all goes well, Axim anticipates MedChew being available to consumers in 2017.

Plantformers: More Than Getting High

Plantformers has added a new landrace strain to their library. The Amsterdam-based company has released Mekanika Haze, a heady *sativa* that can be traced back to the Amazon rainforest where it is believed to have been used by Santo Daime practitioners for healing purposes.

Plantformers is dedicated to gathering landrace strains from around the world and developing new and exciting genetics. The company's flagship strain, Mekanika Haze, boasts an exquisite citrusy bouquet of oranges and mangos while packing a potent THC punch. The high is cerebral and long-lasting, and growers will appreciate the nine to 10 week flowering time Plantformers achieved without sacrificing the strain's stability.

Keep an eye out for a variety of new landrace crosses from Plantformers in 2015.

How suite
it is...

Grateful Bud and Breakfast

The very first cannabis-friendly lodge in Colorado ski country, cleverly dubbed Bud and Breakfast Silverthorne, features Grateful Dead-themed rooms. For \$149 per night guests can stay in the Bob Weir, Phil Lesh or Bill Kreutzmann rooms. And, for the more indulgent traveler, the Jerry Garcia suite is available for \$199.

All the rooms are filled with signed Dead memorabilia and occupants can pick and choose from a wide variety of pot products including flowers, edibles and concentrates provided by two local dispensaries. In addition to the daily, obligatory 4:20 Happy Hour, the lodge offers morning wake and bake sessions with complimentary mimosas and marijuana. Best of all, the innkeepers provide expert advice, explaining the differences between *indicas* and *sativas* and making reefer recommendations to less informed visitors.

With the sudden success of the Grateful bud and breakfast, owners are considering adding an additional room. It remains to be seen how much demand there will be to stay in a suite named after the Dead's legendary original keyboard player, Pigpen.

War Is Over (If You Want It)

The \$1.1 trillion spending bill that will keep the US government from shutting down for a few months also effectively ends the federal war on medical marijuana.

The bill, signed by President Obama, includes the Hinchey-Rohrabacher Amendment, which blocks Justice Department funds from being used to prevent states "from implementing their own state laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession or cultivation of medical marijuana." The spending bill also

defunds DEA interference with states operating pilot programs for industrial hemp.

According to Drug Policy Alliance director Bill Piper, "The war on medical marijuana is over. Now the fight moves on to legalization of all marijuana."

Despite the excitement, it should be noted that the provision preventing the Justice Department from interfering with medical pot programs expires on September 30, 2015. In other words, a permanent resolution—such as removing cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act altogether—is still necessary.



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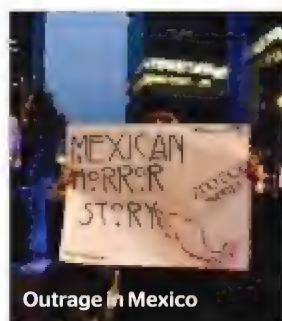


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HIGHWIRE

Dispatches from the international drug war. *By Bill Weinberg*



Outrage in Mexico

Massive March Against Mexican Narco-State

On November 20, tens of thousands of protesters filled the streets of Mexico City in a massive demonstration of public anger over government corruption and the abduction of 43 college students at Iguala in Guerrero state. The marchers converged on the capital's enormous central plaza, the Zócalo, where President Enrique Peña Nieto was burned in effigy and clashes erupted. Some protesters hurled Molotov cocktails at police.

The march was part of a national mobilization. Three caravans, led by family members of the missing students, travelled throughout the country before uniting in the capital for the protest. In southern Chiapas state, the caravan met with leaders of the Zapatista rebel movement, which issued a statement in their support. At an earlier march on the Zócalo on November 9, protesters managed to burn down the door of the National Palace. A general strike has been called across Mexico.

The students, who disappeared in late September, were likely abducted by the Iguala police, who turned them over to be murdered by a narco-gang with the complicity of local



Instability in Afghanistan

Afghan Opium Boom Breaks Record—Again

Poppy cultivation in Afghanistan increased by 7 percent from 2013, according to the 2014 Afghanistan Opium Survey released November 12 by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Opium production may increase by as much as 17 percent, with yields estimated to reach 6,400 tons in 2014, compared to the previous year's total of 5,500 tons. These increases come after the record highs in 2013. UNODC chief Yury Fedotov warned: "We cannot afford to see the long-term stability of Afghanistan—and the wider region—derailed by the threat of opiates."

But is the opium boom making Afghanistan unstable, or is instability leading to the opium boom? The UNODC report came days after the US commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John Campbell, said he's assessing whether troops should remain in the country beyond 2016, the year when President Obama has called for a "complete withdrawal," to combat the escalating Taliban attacks. The insurgency fuels the opium boom, as rebels need a clandestine source of funding and can win peasant loyalties by protecting the poppy crop against government eradication.

Officials. Authorities announced in November that gang suspects had confessed to killing the students, incinerating their remains and dumping them in a river. But a mass grave found near Iguala in the course of the investigation proved to contain other victims of the gang. Protesters are holding out hope of the students' return and have adopted the slogan "We want them alive."

"Citizen Journalist" Assassinated in Tamaulipas

Mexico's northeastern state of Tamaulipas, right on the South Texas border, continues to suffer the worst of the narco-violence—but with little media attention, as the local press is too terrorized by the cartels even to

cover it. Now courageous citizen journalists" are being targeted, too. The latest victim was a crusading micro-blogger in the border town of Reynosa who went by the handle "Felina," an administrator of the reader-generated Valor por Tamaulipas (Courage for Tamaulipas), which aggressively reports the frequent shoot-outs, slayings and abductions despite death threats from the narcos.

In October, Felina was assassinated—and the killers hijacked her Twitter account to live-tweet the murder, posting grisly photos of her body with a coup de grâce bullet wound in her face. The anonymous founder of Valor por Tamaulipas confirmed that the photos were of Felina, saying that she "is part of our

soul, and she will never permit us to surrender to organized crime."

Colombian Crime Lord Falls, Para Links Revealed

On October 22, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos announced the capture of one of the country's top fugitive crime lords—Marcos de Jesús Figueroa, k.a. "Marquitos"—in the Brazilian jungle city of Boa Vista. The extraordinary operation was coordinated by police forces in Colombia and Brazil. Figueroa was considered the reigning boss of the lucrative narco-trade in Colombia's northern region of La Guajira, with access to both the Caribbean Sea and the porous Venezuelan border. He is personally culpable in at least 100 deaths, according to authorities.

The bust brought to light further evidence of the three-way collaboration between Colombia's crime bosses, politicians and paramilitaries. Figueroa's fall prompted news reports of his cozy relationship with La Guajira's political establishment. Wilson de la Rosa Beleño, k.a. "Chocolate"—a former paramilitary



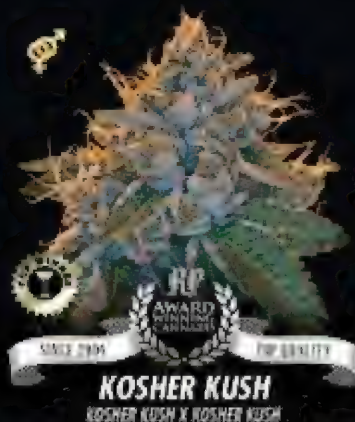
Captured kingpin

Nicarao (hit man) who is now cooperating with the authorities—testified before Colombia's national prosecutor that when he was working for the warlord known as Pablo Guajiro in 2006, he received orders to assassinate the husband of the former mayor of Barrancas, a town in La Guajira. Beleño said the meeting to decide on the hit was attended by Figueroa, Guajiro and La Guajira's ex-governor. The counterinsurgency war in La Guajira over the past 20 years has been a fratricidal one, with the Wayuu indigenous people conscripted into the ranks of both right-wing paramilitaries and left-wing guerrillas in a bloody struggle for control of the remote region's narco-trade. ✱

For updates on these and other stories, see Bill Weinberg's websites, GlobalGanjaReport.com and WorldWar4Report.com.



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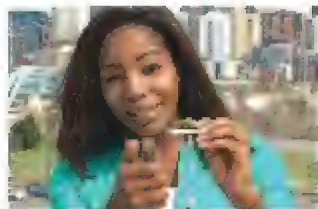


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Under Fire in Alaska

Charlo Greene—who famously walked off her TV reporter job on-air with the words, “Fuck it, I quit” last September—is under investigation by the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC). The commission claims it “needs to investigate” whether Greene violated campaign finance law by using funds generated through an IndieGogo campaign to promote a political agenda. Greene is fighting to bar the APOC from accessing her personal records, and challenged the commission’s request that she provide it documents and information related to the IndieGogo campaign. Greene said the campaign should not be subject to reporting requirements because it was fundraising for her organization, the Alaska Cannabis Club, not for passing Ballot Measure 2. She says she will not comply with the subpoena.

“This [order] worries me and it should worry any other Alaskan that’s taken on a stance on any matter that’s important to them,” Greene said. “If you publish your personal stance on any issue, then this government agency believes they have the authority to ask for emails, bank account information, all of your records. That’s scary.”

To donate to Greene’s Freedom and Fairness campaign, check out gofundme.com/CharloGreene.



Dustin Revere (far right), professor of pipe-making.

A Class for Glass

Dustin Revere and his wife Rita founded the Revere Glass School back in 2006. The medium of glass is a magnet for many, Dustin says. Hundreds of artists have taken their first steps in glassblowing at Revere Glass studios. “They’ve either heard about making pipes or seen our YouTube videos,” he says. “They come to learn in person. They work through the curriculum and focus on what interests them, whether it’s lathe work or color techniques or something else.”

After a few months, says Dustin, some return home, set up their own studio and put in the hours

behind the torch that are required in order to become a really good glassblower.

“The people who put in a ton of time—those who sit down and make the same thing over and over until it’s almost perfect—those are the ones I know have the potential to go far,” he says. “Glassblowing is an amazing art, but it takes dedication and an incredible amount of time to get good. I can show anyone how to do something, but when someone really wants to understand and take that knowledge and make it their own, that’s a really good student.”

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Skater on High

Every year, *Thrasher* magazine bestows Skater of the Year upon one exceptional athlete. It’s the most coveted award in the industry, a recognition of cumulative efforts and achievements. Superstar skater Wes Kremer earned the award this year. He told *muckmouth.com* that pot—no surprise—is a big part of the skate scene: “I guess the part that weed plays in my life is more social than anything. If I’m with a bunch of my homies that smoke, I can’t help but roll as many joints as I’m able to. You gotta keep the good times rolling. If everyone’s skating and having fun, you’re gonna feed off the hype and get motivated to skate, smoking or not. If you ever feel too stoned to skate, just warm up to break the stone. Roll around for a second—don’t even pop your tail.”



Wes Kremer wins Skater of the Year.

SPOTLIGHT

Lady Leaf Earrings

As the walls surrounding marijuana prohibition crumble, show off your pot pride with these gorgeous glittery ganja earrings, made of golden washed brass with metallic enamel, and suspended from gold-fill French ear wires. A portion of the sale of these American-made earrings will be donated to Life For Pot, an organization defending non-violent offenders serving severe sentences for marijuana. \$27.00, silverella.nyc



Versace, Versace, Medusa



Staying Power

Migos trades in fronto leaf for gold blunt wraps. *By Abdullah Saeed*

In a bustling Times Square studio thick with drawled chatter, Takeoff—the youngest member of the Atlanta rap trio Migos—points at his various articles of clothing and utters the word “dab.” His golden Margiela sneakers: “Dab.” His Fendi belt: “Dab.” His gold medallions: “Dab.”

Takeoff’s slurred cadence suggests he’s just had about 50 dabs, but it’s more likely the syrup he’s been gulping down. “Dab” is an Atlanta term expressing goodness, like “swag” or “dope.” Migos smoke heavily but don’t dab much, nor do they consume edibles. Takeoff tried both at a dispensary in Los Angeles. “I got a free dab,” he says, “and it was strong as hell.” He also downed a fistful of activated gummies despite the dispensary worker’s warnings.

“He said, ‘Don’t eat too

many or you’ll get too high,’” Takeoff recalls. “And I said, ‘Nigga, I smoke weed every day. You can’t tell me that.’ I ate *all* them hoers!” He stares off for a moment, reliving the ordeal, before shaking his head and saying, “Never again”

As Takeoff trails off, his uncle Quavo, leader of the Migos, re-enters the control room. He’s finished laying down one of his signature triplet-laden verses and is ready to blaze. So Quavo is sorely disappointed to find that his friends have depleted the Lavender Kush. “Man,” he laments, “*High Times* came with a good sack, and the crew smoked it all on a Migo while I did my verse!” Then he chuckles and suggests a way to make things right: “I wanna be a judge at the Cannabis Cup.” I ask which category, and Quavo replies, “All OG strains. Strongest of the

strong, potentest of the potent ... straight outta Humboldt!”

Migos are partial to heavy *indicas*, what they call “gas” in Atlanta slang. Quavo and Takeoff refer to weed as “gas” exclusively while in the studio. At one point, the blunt marathon comes to a halt, and a Migos crewmember informs the room that the current supply is exhausted, but more is on the way. All of the Migos groan—except one.

Offset, the third member of the group and the most stoic, pops in and out of the studio, riding his own wavelength. Following an eight-month stint in prison for violating

his probation with a dirty pee test, Offset is the only Migo who can’t smoke. He describes the group’s visits to Colorado dispensaries as painful. “Last time I smoked was years ago,” Offset says. “They didn’t have Moon Rocks or any of that new shit. That shit smells crazy ... and I can’t touch it!”

While his bandmates smash ounces at a time, Offset leaves the room to avoid contact smoke. In the booth, he burns Newport 100s in lieu of the blunts that Quavo and Takeoff wield, powering through verses with the same creative ferocity. When he exits, I ask how he delivered such a formidable flow with a clear head. “I don’t need the weed,” Offset replies, pulling a gigantic wad of hundreds from his pocket. “As long as I get the paper.” ✱



Coming Up

Atlanta’s Migos are rising in the rap game through a thick cloud of cannabis smoke. With a penchant for heavy *indicas* and a flair for the machine-gun style they coined ahead of the trend, the hip-hop trio are poised for greatness.



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Preston, Ferorelli and Schmid wait for the Headband to tighten.

Like their hell-raising forebears, Heaven's Jail are all about having a good time.

that might not make it past the parking lot.

Make no mistake, though: Like their hell-raising forebears, Heaven's Jail are all about having a good time. When *High Times* catches up with them, they're just back from the road, completely exhausted but ready to suck the whipped-cream-canister teats of a gauze-and-wire bitch occupying the art space we're working in (the artist kindly cartridge-d said canisters for our whippity convenience). Unfortunately, the photo-shoot encounter with Headband—a strain named for its propensity to make you feel like your dome is in a vise—closes the eyes of everyone present within roughly five minutes—no mean feat, as only Schmid is smoking.

In fact, these days, Schmid is the only one who takes on the regular. ("The rest of us are just trying to scrape by with the brain cells we have left!" jokes Ferorelli, who, like Preston, smoked "thrice daily" until a few years ago.) With another album already in the works with Houck, Heaven's Jail are sure to be hitting the road again soon and often. Schmid, chuckling, tells *High Times* that he has a contingency plan in place: "Never have more weed than you can eat in 10 seconds or just chuck out of the car." ✨

Heaven's Got a Hell of a Band

Brooklyn folk rockers Heaven's Jail will smoke 'em even if they haven't got 'em. *By Polly Watson*

"I told my dad we had a song on NPR, and he said, 'Oh, NPR! You must be doing really well!'" laughs Francesco Ferorelli, the front man and guitarist for Heaven's Jail. "I was like, 'Yeah ... I'm still on my lunch break from my office job.'"

If indie rock hasn't quite discovered Heaven's Jail yet, that should come as no surprise: Raised in New York City on a steady diet of Scorpions and Mobb Deep, Ferorelli still hasn't quite discovered indie rock. He did stumble across a Johnny Cash bootleg, though, and it was his subsequent obsession with hard-bitten golden-era country music that led him to form Heaven's Jail

a few years back. With the aid of bassist James Preston and drummer Ethan Schmid, Ferorelli penned a batch of tunes that sparked the interest of acclaimed singer/songwriter Phosphorescent (a.k.a. Matthew Houck), with whom Ferorelli had struck up a friendship over beers. Houck offered his services as a producer, and the result is *Ace Called Zero* (Heart Break Beat), a warm, yearning album that's earned Heaven's Jail comparisons to such '70s greats as Kris Kristofferson, Thin Lizzy and Warren Zevon, as well as more modern counterparts like Bonnie Prince Billy and the National's Matt Berninger.

The comparisons to the

older rockers are warranted, not only in terms of style and substance but also integrity: Both on record and in person, Heaven's Jail come across as humble, honest and impassioned. Ferorelli's vocals have a mellow timbre that gives every song the effect of being another strand in a late-night, whiskey-drenched conversation with an old friend in a dark bar—the kind of exchange that covers old girlfriends, shit jobs and dreams



Some Light Can Never Be Seen

Bassist Preston once recalls getting "so high that I'd been holding my lighter for 10 minutes and had forgotten I had it. I wanted to smoke more, so I lit my lighter and looked around on the ground to see if I could... find my lighter."

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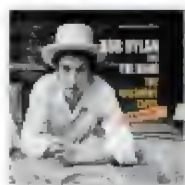
Freewheelin'

Bootleg Bounty

Treasures from the basement of Big Pink.

"Why don't you shut it off and see how it's recording?" is the first thing we hear from Bob Dylan on his *The Basement Tapes Complete: The Bootleg Series Vol. 11*. Shut it off indeed—and then record it again. And again. Or just toss it off and fuck around.

Well, here it fucking is. You asked for it: the much-coveted creative colossus by the artist who never wanted anyone to hear it. Six discs of crooked, off-kilter, brilliant, relentless creation.



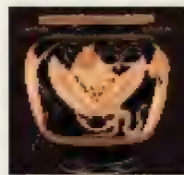
Bob Dylan
The Basement Tapes Complete: The Bootleg Series Vol. 11
(Legacy)

Anyone looking for some gorgeous hidden fruit or a coherent artistic statement is wildly missing the point of this collection. This is a chaotic anthropological journey—a dirty architectural dig through the evolving creative process of the world's most important songwriter.

It is presented gorgeously, in a hefty and elegant box with two hardbound books that include rare photographs, recording notes, images of classic tape reels, essays and, of course, a maelstrom of musical impulses that span its many hours of recordings. It is a beautiful thing to hold and to behold.

But it is, at heart, a messy, visceral thing—an immersive experience for those of us who will always want more content and context from Dylan's many guises and personas. You probably already know if you want this or not. It is no casual endeavor to engage with this document—it is, in fact, a demanding, confounding and endlessly compelling experience to absorb the vulnerability, innocence and pure abandon that is *The Basement Tapes Complete*. For those who want to lift the curtain, lift away. There are worlds here. *Josh Chambers*

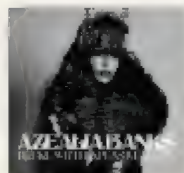
MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



Rhyton Kykeon
Kykeon
(Thrill Jockey)

Pungent incense snakes throughout this Brooklyn trio's garage-psych descent into musty, moldy tombs. Greek and Middle Eastern instruments twine into ruminative grooves that turn to sand and meander forth in clouds of guitar squawk, stumbling drums and ibis screech. While the

moto-thrash of "California Black Box Vapors" and the interplay among rock axes, Greek *bouzouki* and Turkish *saz* in "The Striped Sun" show that the Rhyton crew can jam their butts off, their non-corny exotica eschews proggy grandeur in favor of tersely framed (albeit asymmetrical) songs. *John Payne*



Azealia Banks
Broke With Expensive Taste
(Azealia Banks/Prospect Park)

Azealia Banks is a pop princess, a raunchy rapper, a dubstep duchess and an indie iconoclast who refuses easy categorization on her genre-defying debut. One minute she's shouting rhymes over icy house beats, the next she's taking hits from the "Surfer Billy bing-bong" with Ariel Pink at a

nude beach? And suddenly, she's singing with a mariachi band... but it still sounds hip-hop as hell. Banks isn't bluffing on her taste—but take one listen to break-up banger "Chasing Time," or the blunt brashness of her hit "212," and you'll agree: Azealia won't be broke for much longer. *Ira Gamerman*



The Amazing
Picture You
(Partisan Records)

Include Sweden's the Amazing among the growing legion of "Children of Floyd"—bands overtly influenced by all things Pink. Guitarist/vocalist/songwriter Christoffer Gunrup leads the lofty nine-plus-minute title track, while the equally extended "Captured Light" blends a retro feel

with a freshness free of indie conformity. Drummer Moussa Fadera, assisted by guitar-fusion sensi Reine Fiske, hijacks "Safe Island" and takes it from psych burn to acidic noise capped off by swirling symphonics, yet never sacrifices the emotion. The Amazing appeal to stoners of all types. *Mark Miller*

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Call Me Burroughs
Barry Miles
(Twelve)

A consummate counter-cultural historian, Barry Miles has also been a co-conspirator for half a century: participatory journalist; proprietor of the famed Indica Bookshop; and friend of luminaries ranging from Ginsberg to McCartney.

Miles's biography is thorough and intimate. The

idiosyncratic personal style, rampant drug use and unfettered anti-authoritarianism which made Burroughs a celebrity with young rebels is chronicled, but Miles rightly focuses on the evolution of the writer's savage and satirical prose, which revolutionized literature.

Michael Simmons



The Complete Marijuana Handbook for Women
Cheri Sicard
(Perseus Books Group)

This fantastic handbook covers the full range of properties, applications, cultural references and "straight dope" about our favorite female plant. Author Cheri Sicard was a clandestine pot smoker, but then she came out of the closet singing weed's praises. *Mary Jane* is a wonderful

conglomeration of facts, dispelled myths and handy tips. From recipes to movie recommendations, grow advice, and pot-and-parenting ideas, it's for anyone who has gotten swept up with the marijuana tide—or who needs to come out of the (grow) closet herself.

Mary Ought Six

ANNOUNCING: THE NEW & IMPROVED



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It's different from the competition in that no other hydroponic company has had the opportunity, or the brave enough leadership, to scientifically test cannabis in the volume Advanced Nutrients has. In fact, the following chart shows the advantages of growing with Sensi Cal-Mag Xtra:

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THE COMPETITION...**

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MICRONUTRIENTS IN THE RIGHT RATIO	✓	✗	✗
20 AMINO ACIDS	✓	✗	✗

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MUNCHIES

Green Teacakes

Getting high the French way.

Classically trained pastry chef Marla Molly Poiset decided to infuse cannabis into gourmet patisseries and chocolate after watching her daughter battle leukemia. A self-described “total lightweight,” Poiset doesn’t smoke herself and says that “even five milligrams will affect me” when eaten. Her low tolerance didn’t stop her from winning

multiple awards for her cannabis-infused creations, however, including a second-place Cannabis Cup in 2013 for her “Be the Light” Golden Frankincense Truffle, and a third-place Cup in 2014 for her Margarita Truffle.

A professional woman in her late 50s, Poiset represents a demographic that’s enthusiastically embracing cannabis but needs low-dose options appropriate for newbies and cannabis-naïve patients. Her approach to edibles is designed for “those who would be turned off by the counter-culture,” Poiset says.

These highly technical teacakes, called petits gâteaux verte, are infused with both cannabis and absinthe, making for a very special 4/20 treat! “This is a very exacting recipe,” Poiset notes, “so be sure to use a scale, since all measurements are provided in grams.” *Elise McDonough*

PETITS GÂTEAUX VERTE

50 g. almond flour
45 g. white rice flour
130 g. powdered sugar
10 g. honey
145 g. egg whites (4)
2 g. baking powder
5 g. Matcha green tea powder
70 g. cannabis-infused butter
(Grapefruit strain recommended)
50 g. French absinthe
6 g. orange zest
10 g. unsalted butter (non-infused)
2-inch square savarin mold

Mix 20 grams of absinthe in with the finely grated orange zest. Cover and set aside. Pre-heat the oven to 350°F (170°C).

Weigh all ingredients carefully using a digital scale. Melt the non-infused butter and, with a pastry brush, thoroughly coat your savarin mold with it. Sift together the dry ingredients in a large, stainless-steel stand-mixer bowl using a wire sieve, then set aside. In a sauté pan, melt the cannabis-infused butter until it’s bubbling and

begins to brown. This “noisette butter” provides a nutty flavor—but don’t cook it too long or you may lose the activated cannabinoids.

Whisk the infused butter into the dry ingredients at low speed using a wire whisk attachment. Add the egg whites and honey to the bowl. Whisk on medium-high speed until the batter is smooth and fluffy. Lastly, whisk the absinthe with orange zest in on high speed.

Carefully fill the buttered molds three-quarters full with the batter. Bake them in the pre-heated oven for 22 to 24 minutes or until the cakes turn a light golden-brown. Then turn the molds upside down over a clean kitchen towel to allow the cakes to gently fall out. Place them on a wire rack to cool; once they are, brush the remaining absinthe onto the recessed top of each one using a pastry brush. *Stones 16.*

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(Sour Diesel)
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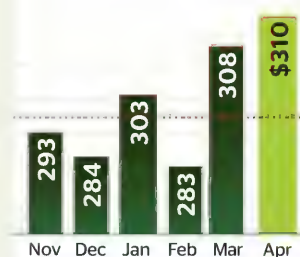
MARKET ANALYSIS

Prices by the ounce

After some fluctuation to start the year, the THMQ settled down in April. All indices finished within \$3 of their previous month's average with the exception of the Schwag Index (+\$11). Blue Dream finished as the second-most-submitted strain for the first time since October 2014 (a six-month span).

US Price Index

YTD Average: \$301



Kind Index

YTD Average: \$369



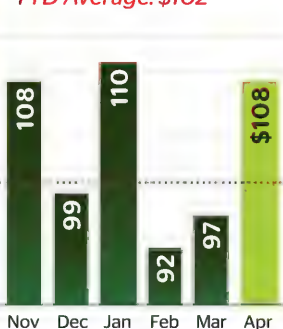
Mids Index

YTD Average: \$283



Schwag Index

YTD Average: \$102



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—Thiruvananthapuram,
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TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
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Alaska	Wasilla	Super Silver Haze	300
Arizona	Tucson	Pre-'98 Bubba Kush	320
Arkansas	Little Rock	Sensi Star	380
California	Los Angeles San Francisco	Girl Scout Cookies Tahoe OG	300 280
Colorado	Colorado Springs Denver	Headband Blue Dream	250 320
Connecticut	Hartford	Diesel	275
Delaware	Pike Creek	AK-47	350
Florida	Miami	Skywalker OG	360
Georgia	Atlanta	Silver Haze	350
Illinois	Joliet	Deathstar	320
Iowa	Des Moines	AK-47	240
Kentucky	Fort Campbell	Purple Kush	360
Louisiana	New Orleans	Blueberry	360
Maine	Portland	Berry White	330
Maryland	Elkton	JillyBean	360
Massachusetts	Boston	Kosher Kush	330
Michigan	Flint	Sour Diesel	320
Minnesota	Minneapolis	Casey Jones	350
Mississippi	Canton	Blue Dream	325
Missouri	Springfield	Blue Dream	300
Montana	Bozeman	Girl Scout Cookies	300
New Jersey	Hoboken	Strawberry Cough	400
New York	New York	Sour Diesel	420
North Carolina	Asheville	Yoda OG	300
Ohio	Columbus	JillyBean	320
Oregon	Portland	Cheese	180
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Trainwreck	360
Texas	Houston	Grape Ape	350
Virginia	Richmond	White Widow	400
Washington	Seattle	Blue Dream	250
Wisconsin	Manitowoc	Hawaiian Kush	295
INTERNATIONAL			
Australia	Brisbane	Purple Haze	AU\$320
Canada	Ottawa Windsor	Kush Mango	C\$125 C\$100
India	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala Gold	INR 1,175

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The Gift of Glass

Aristotle said, "The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance." Welcome to the world of glass pipes!

Photos by Dan Skye

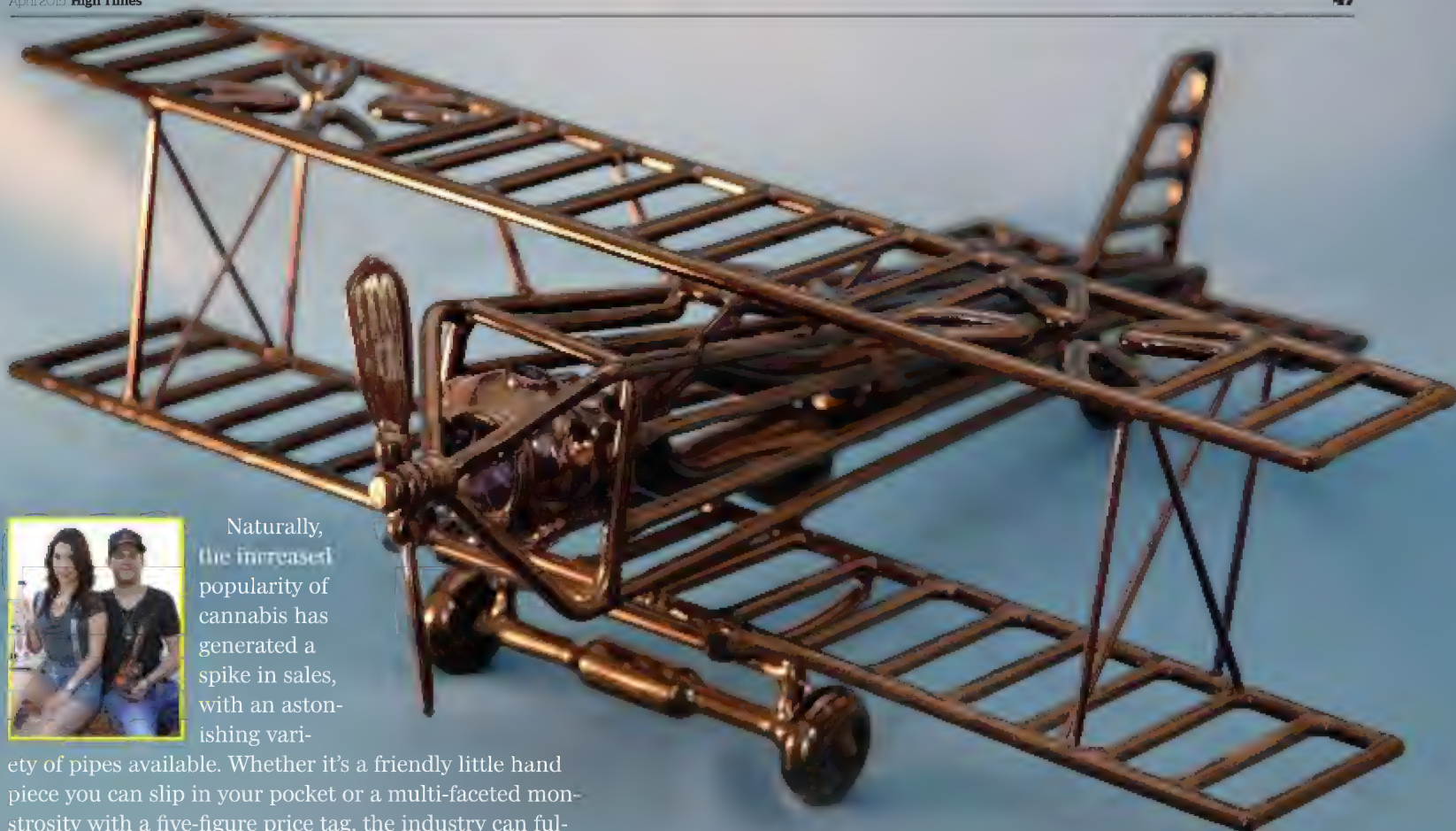
Ganja for Ganesh

This rendition of Ganesh, the god of wisdom and learning, as well as the remover of obstacles, was designed by Creep. What better instrument to use for toking up?

It's been over 10 years since the Feds tried to smash the glass-pipe industry by launching two massive crackdowns nationwide. At the time, acting DEA administrator John B. Brown claimed: "People selling drug paraphernalia are in essence no different than drug dealers. They are as much a part of drug trafficking as silencers are a part of criminal homicide." With Operation Pipe Dreams and Operation Headhunter, the Feds told the world that they were taking decisive steps to dismantle the illegal drug-paraphernalia industry.

But oppression has a funny way of biting the oppressors in the ass: Over the past decade, the glass-pipe industry has flourished, and there are now more artists working in it than ever before.





Naturally, the increased popularity of cannabis has generated a spike in sales, with an astonishing variety of pipes available.

Whether it's a friendly little hand piece you can slip in your pocket or a multi-faceted monstrosity with a five-figure price tag, the industry can fulfill your every need. Furthermore, the rise of concentrates has generated a whole new class of glass artists devoted to the creation of sleek, perfectly performing "rigs."

As with any new industry, different tiers of commerce have developed. Jason and his new bride Briana are the people behind Rolling High Las Vegas, a glass-distribution company that deals only with top artists.

Jason grew up in the Pacific Northwest, the heart of the glass industry. A decade ago, on a trip to Oregon, he discovered the underground glass scene and was instantly smitten. He bought up a slew of glass pieces and sold them to friends—and then, a few months later,

he did it again. He recognized the potential business opportunity and began dealing with the top dudes—artists like Shad, Drew, Darby, Chaz and Banjo.

Jason works with headshops directly and limits his markup to between 15 and 30 percent. "My goal is to work for the artist," he says. "I'm not in this business to be a shark and shortchange people; I work in volume and I do just fine. I try to get the price the artists want for them, but I never rip off headshops—that way, the artists don't stress out about costs and end up selling their stuff for less than it's worth."

At Rolling High headquarters in Vegas, Jason temporarily warehouses hundreds of pipes, which festoon the glass shelves of his storeroom. It's an informal museum of modern glass, showcasing the industry's premier talent. The pipes await shipping—or else they'll be displayed at an upcoming trade show, providing retailers with immediate access to unique merchandise for their shops. "I love this stuff," Jason says as he looks over the works in his possession. "It's art—it's my personal gallery."

Then he sighs, almost dejectedly. "Sometimes it's hard to sell the pipes that I really like."

Freaky Flyer

(Top) Although the biplane is pretty much obsolete, this aircraft by Darby will fly you to the moon and beyond. Inset: Jason and Briana oversee Rolling High.



Intricate Confusion

Jon Forsman is responsible for this complexly designed waterpipe with visual effects inspired by a kaleidoscope.



Toking Toucan

The toucan family includes 40 different species, but none is as popular as this stoner birdbrain by Niko Cray.

Hello AK-47

Hello Kitty is a global marketing phenomenon worth \$5 billion a year. We had no idea she joined the NRA. By Lisa's Pieces.



Piranha Power

Master glassblower Buck has an obsession with flesh-eating fish. His creatures have won multiple awards including top prize at the first Las Vegas Flameoff.

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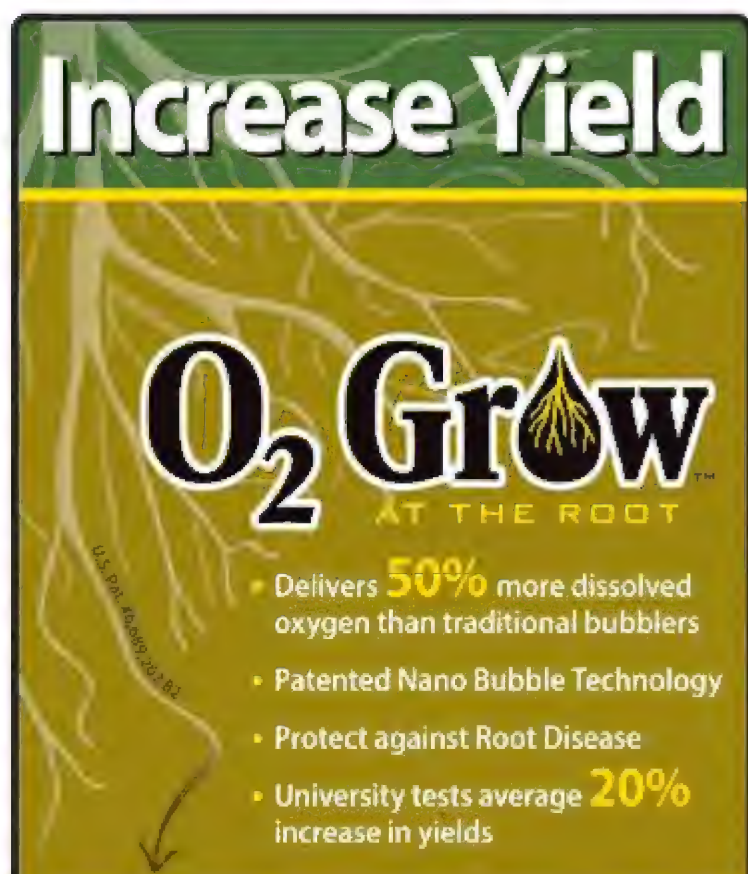


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Shark Attack
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One of Us!
Niko Cray outdid himself with this glass interpretation of a pot smoker lighting up.

High Tide

Hoobs and Lisa's Pieces collaborated on this homage to the California surf scene.

**Flamingo Fling**

It's not unusual for stoners to adopt a smoking buddy when they purchase a pipe, like this pink flamingo by Niko Cray.

**Pinch Hitter**

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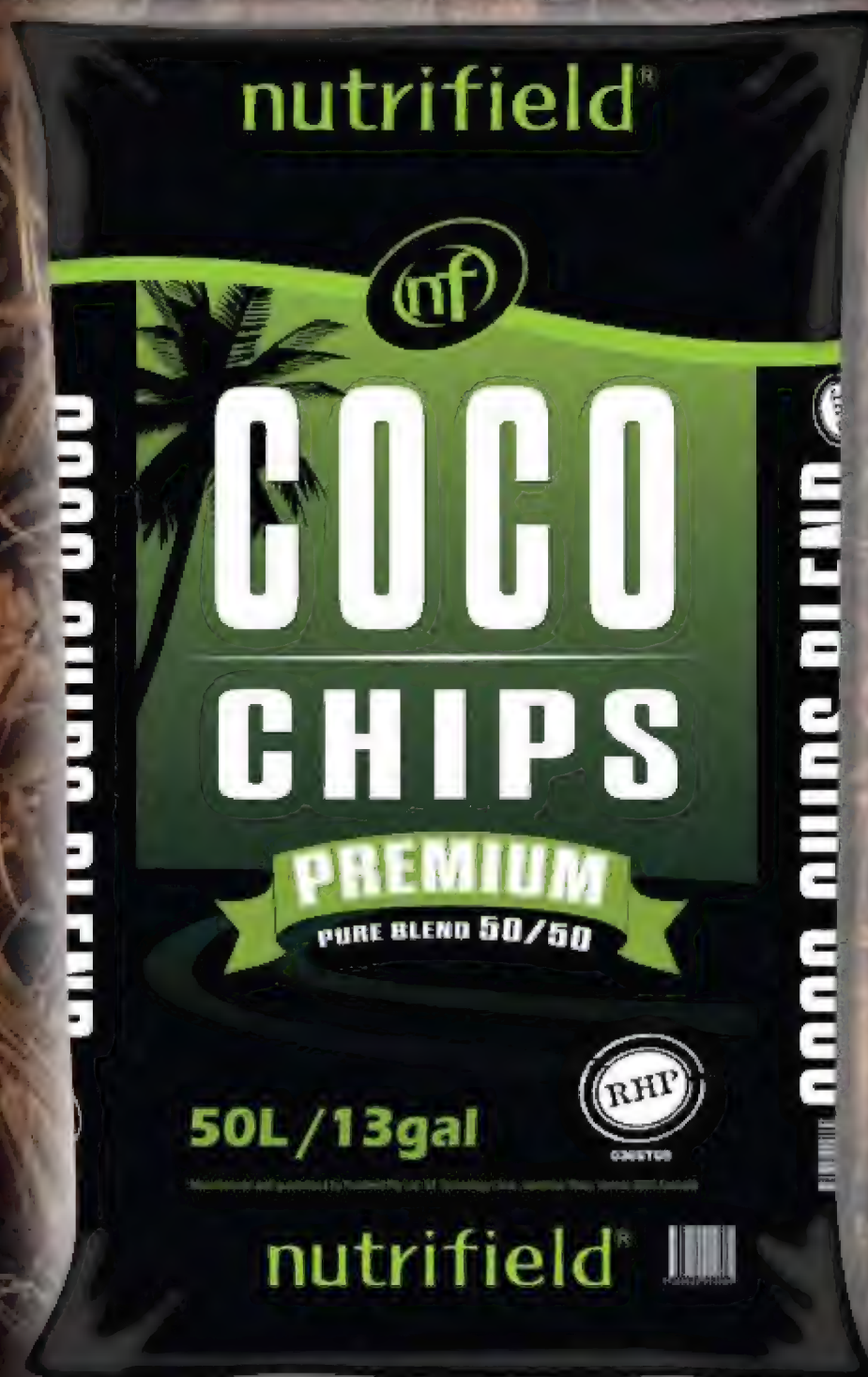
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The Harvest M



Season of Jah Goo

Story by Nico Escondido, Photos by Dan Skye

For six weeks every year in the Emerald Triangle, the region of Northern California encompassing Humboldt, Mendocino and

Trinity counties, six months of hard work comes to fruition with the harvesting of hundreds of thousands of pounds of prime outdoor cannabis. "Sun-grown," as the outdoor crops are now commonly called, has been increasing in popularity in medical dispensaries across the 24 medical states, most of which also boast organic cultivation methods as well.

From seed to perfectly manicured bud, these farmers churn out probably the largest harvest of marijuana of any region in the world. And with the monumental sea change in American attitudes toward legal cannabis, the paradigm has shifted: Where once demand exceeded supply, supply is now outweighing demand across the nation.

A warehouse of colas is processed at Camp Cöol Farms in Mendocino County.



My Morning of Glory

It's a crisp, moist early morning about a month after the autumn equinox. The harvest moon came early this year, about a month before my arrival, but the clocks are no longer set to the rising and setting of the moon and stars. Up here in the Triangle, every day is long and every night pause for celebration. I awake excited with the anticipation of harvest; it is my yearly pilgrimage to my roots, to my family—my only few days of Zen each year, when I get to visit the people who remind me exactly why I dedicated my life to this plant.

At the lodge house in Camp Cool, I grab a jacket and walk outside. The trucks are already buzzing up and down the private dirt roads of the ranch. The team has already been up for two hours,

and as I see the dust kick up from behind the groves of trees, I know where those trucks are headed, and I know what they are filled with.

I wander down the road having a smoke and remember that today is the day I don't need my camera. Today, I am working. I am volunteering. I am begging for a place in the field and hoping that I don't embarrass myself among the men and women who have become pros at this time of year. They move with an ease and swiftness I cannot match. They smile bigger and laugh more often, too.

I make it down to the first plot, a garden of towering 12-foot monsters, some already stripped clean, others falling quietly to the earth. I'm handed a cup of joe and a pair of sturdy stalk cutters.

"Which one do you want, Nico?" the boss man asks, but he already knows the answer as I move to the right and head for my favorite lady. I think they secretly saved her for me.

Good morning, gorgeous, I say to myself as I stop to admire her beauty. She's a 10-foot Jah Goo, my favorite on the farm, and I can barely bring myself to start working on her. She's got five or six pounds of pink and purple buds weighing her down. Some of her limbs are so top-heavy that they point straight toward the ground. I summon the strength and begin to unburden her. She's been waiting six months for me, and in four more weeks she'll find her way home to you.

The Jah of Goo

Jah Goo has become a legendary strain among cannabis connoisseurs, though she has not yet pervaded mainstream consciousness. Perhaps that's one reason why her allure is so powerful. That and the fact that she is a flower not of this earth, a heavenly cross created by Master Grower Mikey from Purple Jasmine and the long-time stalwart known simply as Goo.

Goo itself is a very, very old strain that has been around as long as strain names have existed. The earliest accounts of it surfacing in North America come from Canadian Vietnam vets bringing seeds back from Southeast Asia, with the likely origin being some sort of Thai *sativa*. Somewhere in the Pacific Northwest, she may have been crossed with a heartier *indica* (perhaps an Afghani, leading to the Afghoo), producing a supremely resinous flower that eventually became known simply as Goo. However, that's only half of the story.

The other half is the mystery of the Purple Jasmine, an entirely unknown Nor-Cal strain, possibly originating in Mendo or Humboldt, with dark purple hues and sticky pink hairs. Some say she's a relative of the elusive Stinky Pinky, or a cousin of some Mendo purps, but the real story remains uncertain, other than the fact that the Jah Goo is one of outdoor marijuana's best-kept secrets. But of course, the intent of this story is not simply to dive into my romances with this strain, but more to deliver the quintessence of the California harvest season—of which the Jah Goo is a notable part for this author personally, although not nearly the entire focus. To strike that broader note, we must continue to delve deeper into our education, into the harvest and into our Jah, or praise of the plant

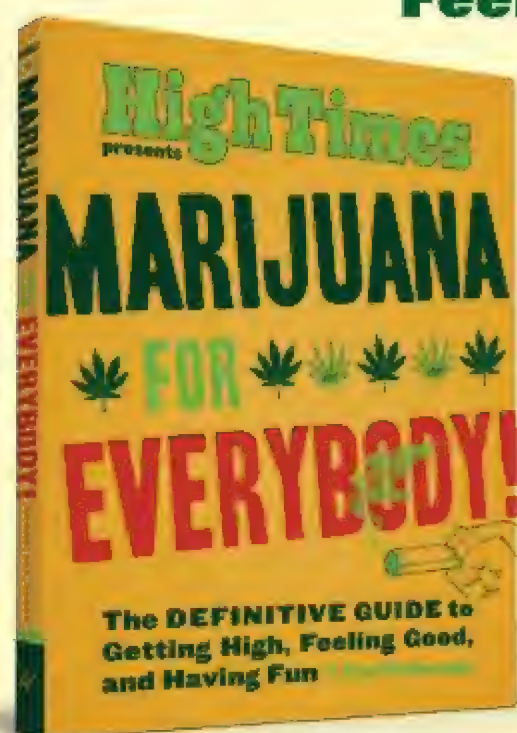
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Most growers dry their buds for seven to 10 days, then trim them and cure them for another week in jars.

A Hunter's Moon

While the harvest moon is the full moon that falls closest to autumn equinox, the hunter's moon is the one that directly follows it. The farm, nestled up in the foothills, is surrounded by Native American reservations, and some of my friends working alongside me—whose ancestors took a keen interest in the cycles of the moon—hail from the tribes that reside there.

As I chop the Jah Goo's limbs from her main stem—which is the size of my calf—I wish that I could let her live forever. I wonder how the other workers, who have nurtured these plants all year long, feel when they chop them down? Judging by

the speed with which they work, they seem to have got over this a long time ago.

We set the lopped-off branches delicately in large bins, all of them standing upright so as not to damage the wet trichomes covering the flowers. We fill bin after bin, lugging them back through the terraced fields to a caravan of pick-up trucks waiting along the hillside.

I offer one of the girls working in the garden a hand in taking a bin back up, but she laughs at me, grabs a second bin, flings one on either shoulder and hikes the dense branches out. While this is no doubt a labor of love, it most certainly is work, and it is work that needs to get done quickly.

The trucks transport dozens of packed bins up through the winding roads to the “barn” (or “Mendo mansion,” as some call them), a prefabricated warehouse constructed of a metal frame with sheet-metal walls and a pitched ceiling complete with air vents. The barn is absolutely massive: Inside are long tent frames with no coverings on them. Instead, bamboo rods run their lengths, wired to the roof beams for added support. On these hangers, thousands of tree branches have been suspended upside down, beginning their long, slow dry for the next seven to 10 days.

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The Art of the Dry

One of the most important aspects of marijuana cultivation—perhaps *the* most important—is the one that is most often overlooked: the drying and curing of buds.

Depending on the volume of flowers, growers have a number of methods by which they can dry their buds. Home growers, for instance, have the option of either drying flowers on the branch or lopping off the buds and drying them on screens. Large-format or commercial growers have fewer options—let alone the luxury of time—but the art of drying buds remains just that: an art.

Timing is everything when it comes to understanding the best practices for drying cannabis flowers. The duration is key, though this depends on a host of other factors that need to be closely monitored to ensure the proper drying time and conditions. Temperature and humidity are two vital aspects to the art of a good crop dry. Warmer temperatures are ideal, somewhere in the range of 64°F to 74°F. Anything higher than this may cause the buds to dry too quickly, which is very bad for both potency and flavor.

As a grower, it is important to understand that live flowers possess very little



Never rush your “dry,” lest months of labor go down the drain.

THC. Instead, the flowers are high in THC-A, the acid form of THC. During drying and curing, small amounts of THC-A (which is *not* psychoactive) slowly convert to THC—and the more, the better! The rest of the THC-A

content doesn't convert to THC until the smoker puts heat, or a flame, to the dried and cured cannabis.

It's for this reason that growers deem a slow drying process the best for their buds. It provides the maximum amount of time for THC-A conversion, while ensuring that the plant matter doesn't dry out too quickly and become crumbly or shaky. Another important aspect to consider in this process are the terpenoids, the essential oils of the cannabis plant that give each strain its own unique flavor and aroma. The art of drying requires each grower to figure out how best to lock in these oils so as not to lose any of the buds' characteristic flavors or smells. If flowers dry out too quickly, with too little humidity and too much heat, these oils can break down and evaporate from the bud, leaving only a grassy, hay-like taste and smell.

Many growers are smart enough to avoid seeing months of hard work being ruined because they rushed their dry. They use space heaters, fans, and humidifiers or dehumidifiers during harvest time to help ensure the exact environmental conditions that will help their buds realize their maximum potential.

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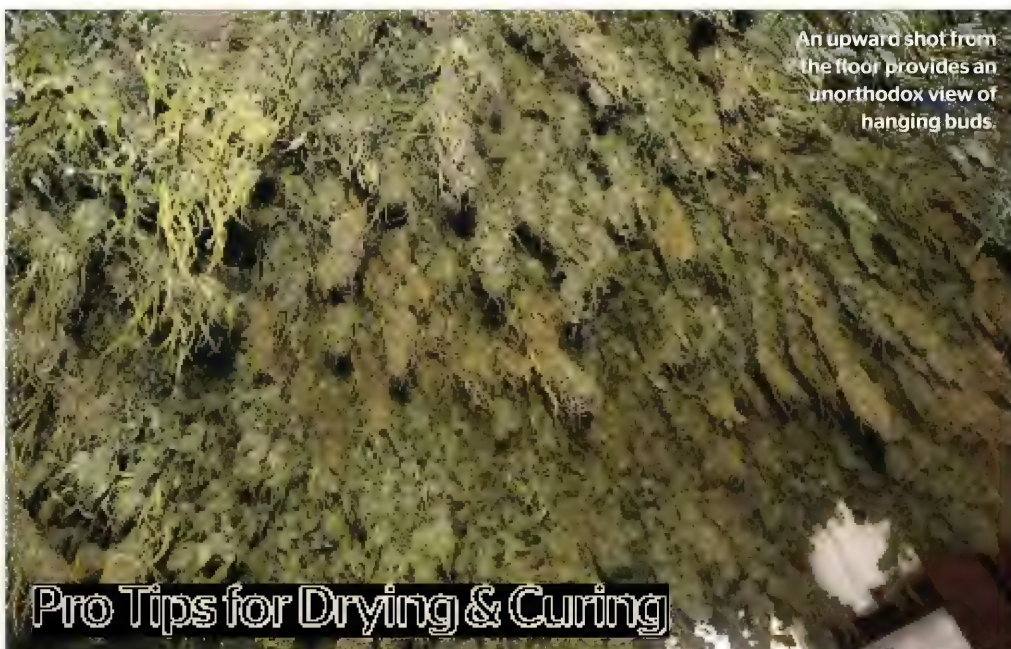


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Pro Tips for Drying & Curing

Harvest flowers when more than 75 percent of the stigmas (or "fuzzy hairs") on the buds have shifted from white to rust/brown/orange in color.

Harvest indoor flowers when a majority of the trichomes, or resin glands, are still white or translucent.

Once the trichomes begin turning amber, it is time to cut the buds down. Outdoor flowers may have more amber glands at harvest.

Dry the cut branches in places with moderate humidity so that the flowers don't dry out too quickly. The optimal humidity range for drying

is between 40% and 50%. Dry and cure buds in the dark whenever possible—light rapidly degrades THC and other cannabinoids.

Store buds at low temperatures whenever possible—THC levels decrease dramatically at warmer temps.

The Craft Behind the Cure

Many new growers think of the curing process as being separate from drying, but this is not the case. In fact, curing is just an even slower drying process—one that can go on for weeks should the grower desire to achieve perfection. However, curing is not an essential part of the harvesting and drying process, though it does enhance the bouquet and flavor. Curing helps buds reach their maximum potential—however, when done incorrectly or for too long, curing can decompose cannabinoids and terpenoids. This means there's a definite craft behind the cure.

Unfortunately, for most growers, time is of the essence. Indoor growers need to keep the process moving to make room for the next crop, while outdoor growers are usually at the mercy of Mother Nature, with weather playing a huge part in how well their drying and curing goes.

The curing process differs from drying in that this super-slow-dry process usually occurs with the buds already dried and manicured. After the buds are trimmed, they are placed in opaque containers to cure. These containers are usually opened once or twice a day to

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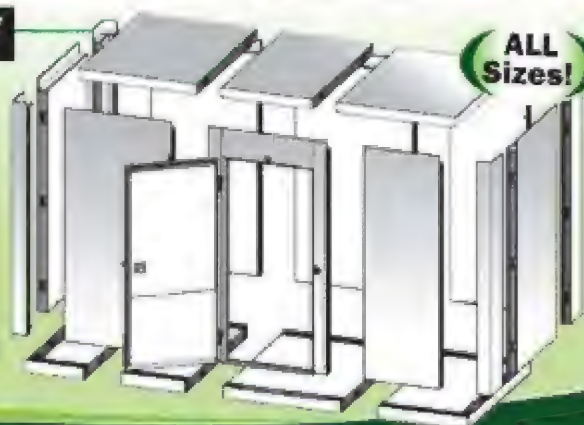
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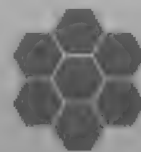
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Let the evaporated moisture escape and keep the buds from molding. This type of cure is known as “air curing,” and it can go on for as little as a few days or as long as a couple of weeks. Most growers

dry their buds for seven to 10 days, then trim them and cure them for another week in jars. However, this process varies from farm to farm, grower to grower and season to season.

The NorCal Harvest

Up in the Emerald Triangle, harvest time is a busy time—and time is a luxury that most do not have. This is due to a variety of reasons, the main ones being space (or, more accurately, how big their “Mendo mansion” is) and man-hours. Labor needs triple at this time of year: These operations depend on trustworthy help and a quick pace to get the trees cut, hung, dried and trimmed on an exacting schedule: If one garden comes down late, the entire process can be disrupted. With limited space and resources in terms of drying, everything needs to go according to plan to keep the production line—harvest crew, hangers, trimmers and the curing process itself—on schedule.

Efficiency is the name of the game with the old-timers. They’ve been around long enough to know that being the first out the door with their harvest isn’t as important as doing it right and getting top quality. They combine their experience with knowledge of the processes involved in harvesting to create a system that moves fast while producing high-quality ganja. At Camp Cool, the plants are hung to dry the same day they’re chopped. They hang in the massive



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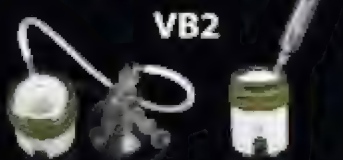
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parns for about a week,
depending on the conditions.
Large industrial heaters are
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air over the branches placed
on hangers suspended from
bamboo poles. Each branch
is labeled with the strain,
date and garden it came
from. Digital thermostats and
hygrometers hang all over the
place, and humidifying/dehu-
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ready for the boss's call.

In a week, the trim crews
will move in and hold court
for the next two weeks while
the buds are dry-trimmed.
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paid by the gram. The best
trimmers manicure over two
pounds a day. The debate still
rages as to whether hand-
trimming or trimming by
machine works best. The old
guard prefers a trim crew,
claiming a better manicure,
less waste and a prettier
product. It's tough to argue
with those points. On the
other hand, those who favor
machines argue for their effi-
ciency and the economics of
post-cutting technology. Some
of the new equipment does
a much better job than the
alpha models of earlier years,
which often massacred buds
and knocked the valuable

trichomes from the flowers.
But whatever arguments exist,
they are put to bed as the
sun goes down, and at night
the farm returns to a place of
family. Friends and relatives
gather, the grills light up, and
the whiskey comes out and
sings a song.

That night I looked around
me, taking in the final hours
of my yearly pilgrimage. I
wondered how many other
farms were out there just
like this one. Who knew?
How long had they been out
there—and how much longer
would they have? Would they
survive the changing times?

Then I remembered one
simple fact, as I always do
when I come to this holy
place: This was ground zero
of the War on Cannabis. This
was where the first battles
were won—this was our
Gettysburg, our Normandy,
our Mecca. How much will
change when the holy grail of
federal legalization is finally
achieved? Will big business
and corporate money affect
the world of weed as we know
it? The answer is obvious:
Yes, they will. But will this
place change? These people,
this family—our family? That
answer now seemed obvious
as well: Never. 🌿



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This year, the Cannabis Cup turned into a protest—a challenge to official oppression that showed the world we can never take pot freedom for granted.

By Elise McDonough





Cannabis culture is part of Amsterdam's reputation, history and identity.

AMSTERDAM USED TO be the Promised Land.

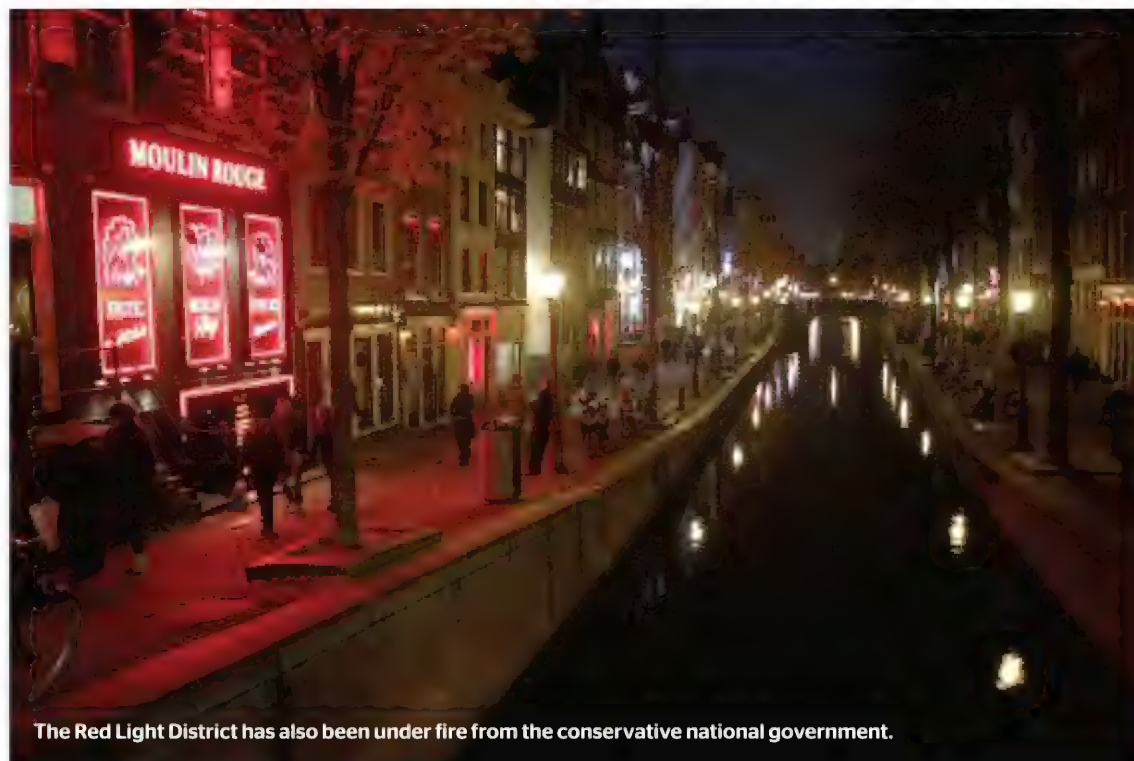
Long before marijuana legalization took root in places like Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Uruguay, the Netherlands led the world in treating cannabis consumers with respect. But now the national government is closing coffeeshops, targeting hydro stores and forcing growers further underground—much to the dismay of cannabis-friendly locals and the many expatriates from around the world who have made Holland their home seeking marijuana freedom.

In fact, this year, Amsterdam Mayor Eberhard van der Laan—under pressure from the country's die-hard prohibitionist justice minister, Ivo Opstelten, to change the city's image from an alleged capital of sex and drugs into a family-friendly tourist destination—seemed to make it his personal mission to stop the Cannabis Cup. Which at first sounds like a funny plot for a stoner-comedy movie, but proved decidedly less hilarious in real life.

To be sure, we've faced government opposition before. After peacefully tolerating the Cannabis Cup for 24 years, Dutch authorities raided the Borchland expo in 2011, arresting only one person and filing no charges.

"It's not the laws that have changed, but how the laws are applied," says Derry Brett, the proprietor of several businesses under the Barney's brand. Brett founded his first coffeeshop in 1992, when more than 600 such establishments were up and running, compared with today's 160. So he's seen firsthand how Holland has changed in the last several years, explaining: "In the old days, if you made three or four mistakes running your shop, you might get a slap on the wrist, you'd get spoken to, you'd get

ACCORDING TO DERRY BRETT, "THE MAYOR TRIES TO DO HIS BEST FOR COFFEESHOPS, BUT MAYBE THE CUP IS SEEN AS GOING TOO FAR."



The Red Light District has also been under fire from the conservative national government.

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The Melkweg hosted concerts and seminars.



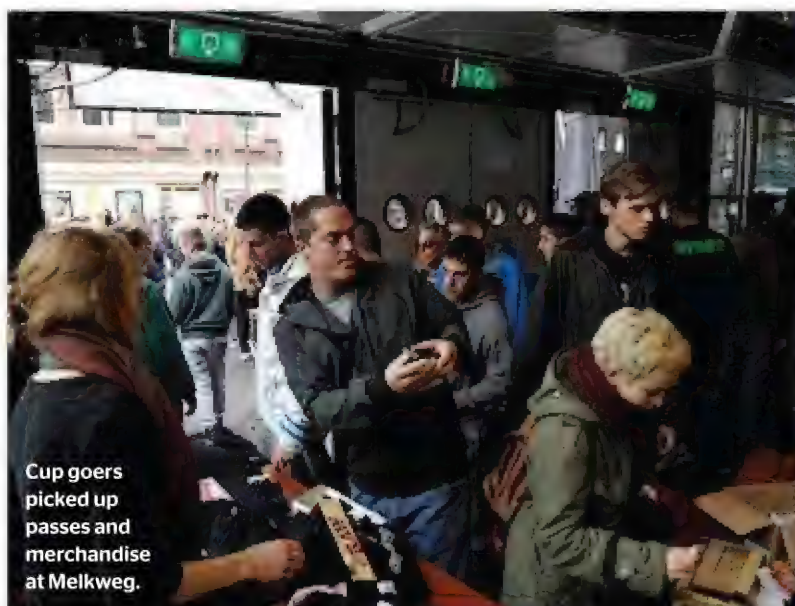
closed down for two weeks. If you make a mistake now, you will lose everything: your house, bank account, credit cards, cars, business—everything you own!”

From the very beginning of the planning for this year’s Cup, the Mayor’s Office threw up roadblocks, including requiring compliance with an onerous list of restrictions: no dabbing, concentrates or waxes (solvent-based extracts are considered hard drugs in the

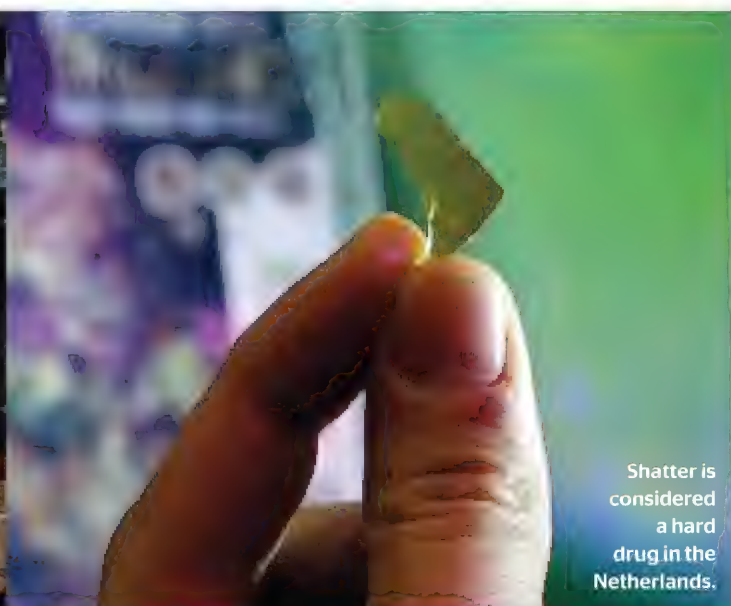
Netherlands); strict limits of five grams per person and invasive security searches at the door; no smoking indoors, no freebies from vendors, no sampling of weed, and no sharing of vapor bags—a laundry list of buzz kills literally meant to kill our buzz. Still, High Times reluctantly complied, and we received assurances in return that as long as the new rules were followed, the expo could proceed—an agreement that was not to be honored.

#SAVECANNABISCUP

In August, High Times received word that the Cup’s expo venue for the past two years, Roest, was no longer willing to host the event after receiving threats from the Mayor’s Office that its license to operate would be permanently revoked if anyone onsite was found with more than five grams of cannabis. Turning to Dutch legal counsel Maurice Veldman, we searched for new venues, negotiating



Cup goers picked up passes and merchandise at Melkweg.



Shatter is considered a hard drug in the Netherlands.

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with Undercurrent, Radion and, finally, Kristal Events Center, only to have each place back out upon receiving the same threats. Like a game of whack-a-mole, every time High Times attempted to secure another venue, the Mayor's Office and City Council found another excuse to block the Cup.

But don't cast Mayor van der Laan as the villain just yet, since it seems the generally cannabis-friendly mayor just got caught between a stone and a hard place. Tasked by the national justice minister with clamping down on cannabis culture *or else*, van der Laan chose to shut down the expo rather than face the possible imposition of the *wietpass* on Amsterdam (which would ban foreign tourists from patronizing the coffeeshops)—just as the city's recent closing of 30 or so coffeeshops located near schools was a necessary compromise to assuage the national government. According to Derry Brett, "The mayor tries to do his best for coffeeshops, but maybe [the Cup] is seen as going too far ... van der Laan is very nervous about allowing a marijuana expo while the central government's politicians are bearing down on him."

Don from DNA Genetics, who has chosen to remain in Europe while his business partner Aaron resides in California, echoed that statement: "We have a mayor that's pro-cannabis; he sat down with several other mayors and tried to get a license for the coffeeshops to give their growers This is a very progressive mayor who stopped the *wietpass*. This man is fighting for the cannabis plant, but the other powers-that-be don't want it to happen."

WEED SHALL OVERCOME

Less than 24 hours before the 27th Cannabis Cup was set to begin, the organizers were scrambling to keep the expo open—until a last-minute offer of asylum from the erstwhile music venue the Melkweg appeared to save the day.



BEST COFFEESHOP STRAIN Cookies Kush, by Barney's Coffeeshop

Two of the most popular strains of the recent past combine into a spicy powerhouse variety that took top honors in the "People's Cup" this year. The marriage of Girl Scout Cookies and Rollex OG Kush, last year's winner for the Green Place Coffeeshop, is a match made in stoner heaven—super strong and flavorful, with a unique terpene profile that must be tasted to be believed.

BEST SATIVA BY A SEED COMPANY Tangie Crockett's Cut, by Crockett Family Farms

Tangie has been winning a ton of Cannabis Cup awards lately in the flower and concentrate categories, and there's no wonder why: Her powerful, one-of-a-kind citrus aroma and flavor are rivaled only by the intense potency. This is a true *sativa* with no ceiling to the buzz—keep smoking and you just keep getting higher. Expect great things from this strain and seed company in the future!

BEST INDICA BY A SEED COMPANY Colorado Bubba, by the Vault Genetics

This relatively new seed bank scored three different prizes this year by bringing some of Colorado's finest cannabis to the table. Their version of Bubba Kush wowed the judges with its tight little bright-green nuggets covered with frosty trichomes. But it was the very unique smell—fruity

and tropical, with the scent of mango and papaya—and sedative *indica* stone that took it over the top for the win.

BEST HYBRID BY A SEED COMPANY Larry OG, by the Vault Genetics

The Vault Genetics earned another award with their Larry OG hybrid, a Kush phenotype that's been buzzing the Colorado marketplace lately. Judges loved the scent, flavor and potency, but they really raved about its burnability: Joints burned to a clean white ash, and hits tasted great even halfway down the spliff. Our expert panel just kept returning to the Larry—a great sign that it's the best weed on the table.

BEST IMPORT HASH BY A COFFEESHOP Super Lemon Haze Cream, by the Green House

The Green House has taken import hash to a new level, using Dutch genetics as the source instead of traditional Moroccan plants. The result is a superb, rich and creamy chunk of hash that softens into the perfect piece to roll in a joint or pack into a pipe. Spicy, with strong citrus notes, this hash exemplifies what new-world Haze genetics can bring to the *terroir* of North African soil.

**BEST NEDERHASH
BY A COFFEESHOP
Cookies Ice-Cream,
by Barney's Coffeeshop**
Hashish made in the Netherlands sometimes gets a bad rap, but certainly not this powerful stuff.

Potent, flavorful, and lacking the typical "wet" texture and taste of most Nederhash, the Cookies Ice-Cream had judges going back for more to put in their bowls and spliffs. Made from Barney's Cup-winning Cookies Kush, this light-colored, minty hash aims to please.

BEST IMPORT HASH (CONCENTRATES) BY A SEED COMPANY Super Lemon OG Concentrate, by Loud Pack Extractions and Greenwolf LA

Some concentrates have all the potency yet lack in depth of flavor, causing judges to dismiss them as incomplete. Not so this terpene-rich Super Lemon OG entry, which reeked of the fuel-and-citrus combo that makes Kush dabs so desirable. The nice, light color of this shatter also went a long way toward convincing the judges of its merits, but the power of the OG was the deciding factor.

BEST NEDERHASH (CONCENTRATES) BY A SEED COMPANY The Kong 73 Non-Solvent Hash, by the Vault Genetics

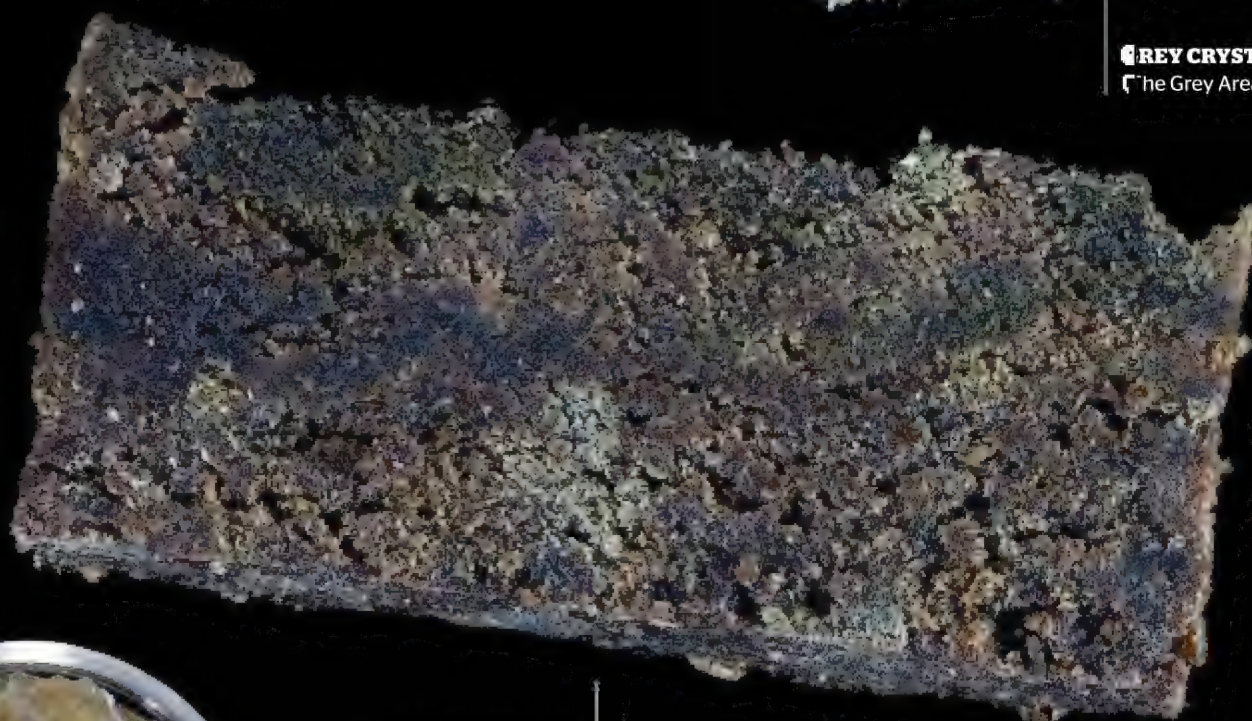
The quality of this category improves with every Cup, and the Kong 73 has raised the bar immensely. Made with a 73-micron screen, this solventless hash melted just like a dab. The texture was greasy, and the smell of the Kong really shined through in ways that solventless doesn't always reach. Judges raved about the taste and seemingly limitless buzz that this incredible ice-water-extracted hash supplied.



COOKIES ICE-CREAM
(Jarney's Coffeeshop)



GREY CRYSTAL
(The Grey Area)



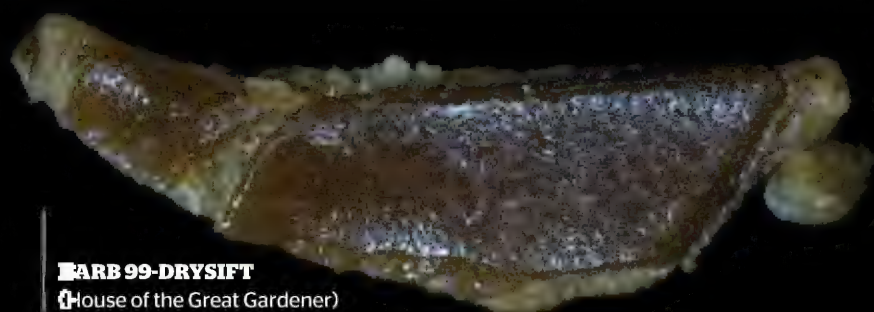
GREEN HOUSE ICE
(Green House Coffeeshop)



THE KONG 73
(The Vault Genetics)



BETTY ROSS
(DNA Grow Your Own)



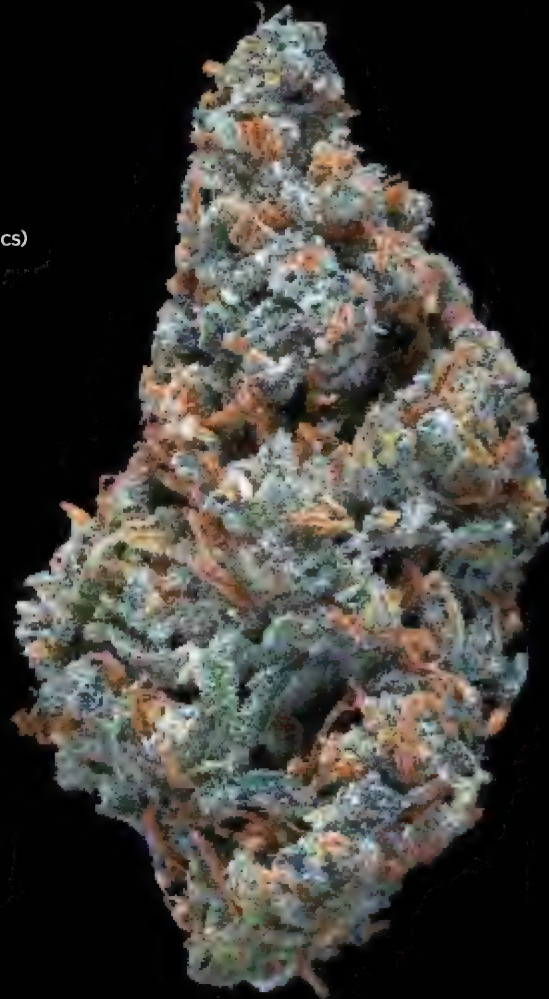
BARB 99-DRYSIFT
(House of the Great Gardener)

HIGH TIMES
CUP WINNERS

TANGIE CROCKETT'S CUT
(Crockett Family Farms)



LEMON BUBBLE
(PhenoFinders)



TANGIE
(DNA Genetics)



LARRY OG
(The Vault Genetics)



STAR KILLER
(Rare Dankness)



NIGHT NURSE
(BC Bud Depot)



COLORADO BUBBA
(The Vault Genetics)



THE TRUTH
(True Canna Genetics)



KOSHER KUSH
(DNA Genetics)



COOKIES KUSH
(Barney's Coffeeshop)



OG REEK'N
(The Green Place)



PURE KUSH
(The Green House)



UPER LEMON HAZE CREAM
(Green House Coffeeshop)



CARAMELLA CREAM
(Barney's Coffeeshop)



TWISLA
(The Green Place)



UPER LEMON OG CONCENTRATE
(Loudpack Extractions/ Greenwolf LA)



PARIS OG KUSH SHATTER
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Unfortunately, just an hour before the doors opened on Sunday, with the booths all set up and ready to go, Amsterdam's chief of police threatened to raid the Melkweg and arrest the participants should the expo proceed. So High Times was forced to cancel it at the last minute, but defiantly carried on nonetheless with the seminars, nighttime concerts, coffeshop crawl and cannabis contest that form the backbone of the Cup.

According to lawyer Maurice Veldman, "A spokesperson for the City Council claims that the selling of cannabis anywhere other than a coffeshop must be prevented... I have repeatedly invited officials and civil servants to come and take a look at the Cannabis Cup during the event. There has never been cannabis sold at the expo."

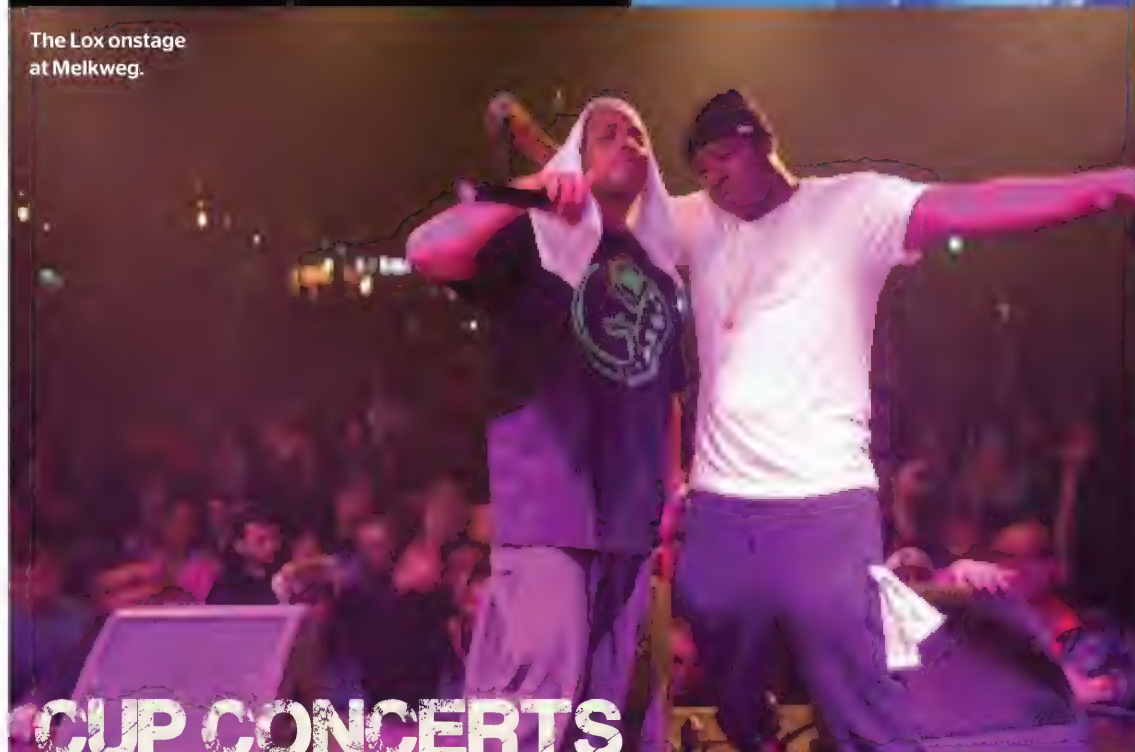
Despite the expo's loss, the Cup went on with a full schedule of educational events, including seminars by prominent activists and leaders of the cannabis industry. Arjan and Franco from Green House Seeds unveiled their exciting new medical-research program, headed by Joost Heeroma, a PhD in neurobiology, who is conducting a meta-analysis of available studies to track the interactions between different cannabinoids and various brain receptors. Soma, Mila Jansen, Bubbleman and Robert Connell Clarke also gave eye-opening presentations, followed by Freedom Fighter of the Year Robert "Black Tuna" Platshorn, who made a convincing case for converting senior citizens into medical marijuana activists. And Swerve from the Cali Connection, Scott from Rare Dankness Seeds, Matt from BC Bud Depot and many other cultivation superstars shared their wisdom with sizable crowds.

Meanwhile, in lieu of the expo, Cup-goers packed the coffeshops, as well as a series of parties that kicked off with the 70th-birthday



Dirty Heads

Rebelution played the Awards Show afterparty.



The LOX onstage at Melkweg.

CUP CONCERTS

On Tuesday, November 25, High Times welcomed East Coast rap royalty to the stage at the Melkweg in Amsterdam for the Legends of Nectar Party presented by the Green Place and Devil's Harvest. The LOX received a hero's welcome after DJ Technician kicked off the show by taking the Cannabis Cup crowd on a musical journey through hip-hop's history. The group, featuring 20-year rap veterans Styles P and Jadakiss, has collaborated with everyone from Mariah Carey to the Wu-Tang Clan. But they had the Cannabis Cup stage to themselves on Tuesday, and they did not disappoint.

With Jadakiss at his side, High Times fave Styles P—who headlined the 25th Cup in

2012—captivated Cup-goers from the start, seamlessly transitioning from classics to covers to crowd work and back again. The LOX capped off a killer set with "Money, Power & Respect" from their 1998 debut album of the same name.

On Thanksgiving Thursday, High Times handed out Cannabis Cups for the best pot and hash in Holland. However, this year's awards show didn't close out the Cup; instead, it was sandwiched between sets by the Cali-based bands Dirty Heads and Rebelution in the Melkweg's Oude Zaal.

Dirty Heads got the evening started, transfixing the early crowd with their smooth and melodic reggae fusion, exemplified by an excellent version of

"Dance All Night," off their 2012 release *Cabin by the Sea*. The original featured Matisyahu on vocals, but Dirty Heads lead singer Jared "Dirty J" Watson didn't miss a beat in this rendition, flawlessly trading the mic with guitarist/vocalist Dustin "Duddy B" Bushnell.

Rebelution kept the reggae vibe going, with Marley D. Williams's bass and touring member Mike Eyia's sax adding rich texture to songs like "Roots Reggae Music" from 2014's *Count Me In*. Charismatic front man Eric Rachmany left the capacity crowd shouting for more as the final notes of the 2014 Cup rang out, sending reggae revelers soaring into the cold Amsterdam evening.

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bash—complete with a drum line, *capoeira* dancers and Brazilian samba musicians—for Amsterdam's own "Queen of Hash," Mila Jansen. The Green Place and Devil's Harvest brought Jadakiss, Styles P and Sheek Louch of the LOX to the Melkweg on Wednesday night, while Reeferman and BC Bud Depot organized a last-minute bash at Susie's Saloon, and the Dampkring Glass Gallery made room for displaced vendors, housing Boss Vapes, Manchester Seeds, Delta 9 Labs and Hitman Glass in its recently cleared basement.

"We're literally going underground," owner Greg Andruszczenko laughed. "We never really set up to be a bong shop, but we'll close the doors and let people smoke!"

The exhibition on display, *Yo-Kai-Ju: Mythical Beasts of Japan*, featured glass pieces created by seven artists. These "works of stunning intricacy and luminous expression" included a piece with a price tag of over \$35,000 and an irradiated, glowing borosilicate demon hunter, *Onigari*, that represented a combined effort of over 17 months. Not surprisingly, *Onigari* and another work from the Dampkring Gallery claimed the second- and third-place Best Glass awards.



Vendors go underground at Dampkring Glass Gallery.

A BEACON OF FREEDOM FLICKERS

"So why bother to visit Amsterdam at all?" an American cannabis enthusiast might reasonably ask—especially with legalization flowering in Denver, Seattle, Portland, Anchorage, Washington, DC, and beyond. For starters, this charming, cosmopolitan European capital city offers picturesque canals, brilliant engineering

and architecture, great food, unparalleled nightlife, enviable art collections, and a history as the cradle of cannabis culture that deserves to be honored, protected and preserved. Also, until smoke-friendly establishments are able to open in the United States (or anywhere else), there's still no other place on Earth that can match the coffeeshops as a place where pot lovers are free to gather and share the plant in peace.

Marijuana refugees from around the world started arriving in the Netherlands in the 1970s and '80s, fleeing prosecution at home and seeking the unique freedom from persecution that the Dutch sense of tolerance allows. They flocked to a country whose common-sense drug policy separated "soft drugs" like cannabis from "hard drugs" like heroin and cocaine, and where the possession of small amounts of pot had been decriminalized.

Many of these expat growers found work within the nascent Dutch cannabis industry, founding seed companies and coffeeshops, brokering pot deals or making hash. Over the decades that followed, Amsterdam continued to serve as a safe haven for heads, a treasure chest of cannabis genetics, and the only place in the

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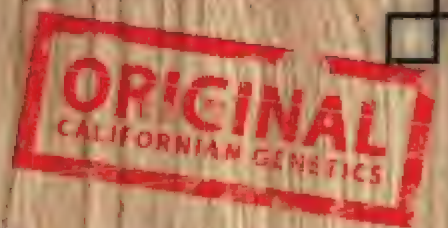


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Blue Dream
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This cross of Blueberry and Haze is known for its very pleasant fruity-tangy-earthy taste, blue color, and strong and lasting, mixed mind and body high. The high starts with a sativa high and finishes around 3 hours later with a relaxing indica like muscle easing and pain killing effect. It is one of the favourites in California and in fact it is among the top ten most demanded strains in there, which gives a good measure about the quality of this jewel. Taste is described by users as sweet, tangy, lemony, and earthy. Produces big plants that grow fast and wide, and it is appropriate for commercial purposes.



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world where it was socially acceptable to smoke pot. A relatively recent transplant, Don from DNA Genetics, started his seed company there in 2003 and now says, “I love this town! When no one was able to find a safe place to smoke, we would come here—and I don’t want to lose sight of that.”

Robert Connell Clarke, the author of *Hashish!* and a prominent expatriate who has lived in Amsterdam for more than 20 years, says of the current situation: “It’s uncharacteristic, because we’ve become used to the Dutch level of tolerance for which they’re famous—and admirably so. People look at the Netherlands and, because of sex, gambling and soft-drug laws, they think the Dutch are liberal or radical sometimes ... or even crazy! But they’re really conservative; they’re just pragmatic They have always made policies that matched the natural behavior of Dutch citizens.”

That pragmatism now seems to be falling victim to the irrational fears foisted upon Holland’s national politicians by their neighbors in the United Kingdom, France and Germany. Because, rather than follow the Netherlands’ example and reform their own drug laws, these nations carry on in denying

the natural behavior of their citizens. In a recent interview with *America Tonight*, Mayor van der Laan admitted to smoking pot as a youth, and he affirmed that the movement for legalizing cannabis in America inspires him, telling reporter Lori Jane Gliha: “I hope that the developments in the United States will bring more balance in the discussion, innovations and solutions I say, ‘Welcome to the club, and thank you for joining us.’”

DEEP ROOTS

Conceived as an invitation-only underground event in 1988, the Cannabis Cup was founded by then-*High Times* editor-in-chief Steven Hager, who was inspired by California’s legendary marijuana harvest festivals. For the first six years of its existence, the Cup was solely a coffeeshop crawl and seed-company contest. But thanks to major media coverage, the first-ever public expo at the Seventh Cannabis Cup transformed the annual gathering into an international sensation, uniting pot lovers from around the world.

Hundreds of thousands of Cup attendees have soaked up that feeling of freedom since then, with many returning home determined to create a slice of heaven where they live. The “Canadian

Prince of Pot,” Marc Emery, recently released from a five-year prison term, spoke this year about his own first trip to the Cup in 1994. While taking part in a panel discussion with Sensi Seeds’ Ben Dronkers, Emery vowed to start his own seed empire, telling Dronkers: “I’m going to do what you do [sell seeds] and use that money to change the world.”

Breeding work carried out in Holland by Dronkers and others established the building blocks of today’s modern cannabis hybrids, and important new projects are still taking place there. So the Netherlands’ seed sellers continue to report brisk business, especially during the Cup. Ashwin from the Amsterdam Seed Center, a retailer representing many seed banks, reported that the store was crowded all week, with seeds “selling like warm breads” (by which he means “selling like hot cakes”). Meanwhile, “King of Cannabis” Arjan Roskam brings new landrace genetics to market via his important *Strain Hunters* franchise, and hash legend Robert Connell Clarke is conducting an ambitious cannabis DNA-mapping project by collecting old seeds—making Amsterdam more relevant than ever for seed breeders and researchers.



REACH BEYOND HIGH



2014
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EXPOGROW - SATIVA

BIO - CUP SPAIN

LA S.A.G.E.

HIGH TIMES

MK-ULTRA

DENVER CUP - INDICA

BUBBLEGUM

EXPOGROW - RESIN

EXPOGROW - SATIVA

S.A.G.E.

SOCIAL CLUBS - INDICA

MK-ULTRA

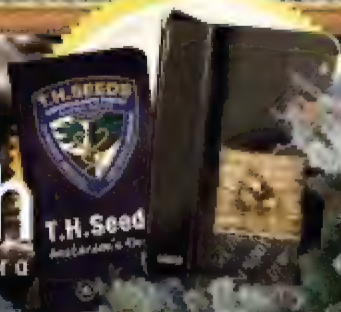
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THE GRAY MARKET

Most Dutch people don't smoke pot—and, in fact, normalizing cannabis use actually makes it *less* appealing to youth. One prevailing viewpoint holds that the widespread availability of marijuana has made the Dutch citizenry complacent, believing that it's already legal when many problems related to prohibition still remain. Commenting on this lackadaisical attitude, Arjan says: "It's a non-issue in Holland because everyone has access to marijuana and they don't care. It's not like in America, where people are really activists—we don't have that here in this country." And Mila Jansen remarks, "Activism in Holland is very low—the demonstration last year was more journalists than activists!"

Homegrown activists work to change this attitude, bringing attention to the "back-door problem" and fighting for legalized cultivation. Derrick Bergman, founder of the Verbond voor Opheffing van het Cannabisverbod (VOC)—in English, the Union for the Abolition of Cannabis Prohibition—has been tackling these tricky issues since 2008.

"Coffeeshops can sell cannabis, but can't produce any or buy it wholesale—which is crazy," Bergman explains. "A child can understand that this is not a workable system, but still no government has dared to really change it. In the meantime, growing has been quietly taken over by criminal organizations that you don't want to buy your weed from."

So along with infamous Dutch grower Doede de Jong, Bergman works to fully legalize cannabis in the Netherlands, organizing demonstrations such as Cannabis Liberation Day, along with lobbying campaigns directed at politicians and the media in favor of legal, taxed and regulated cultivation. He also

identifies Justice Minister Opstelten as the movement's main opponent, explaining: "There's 150 seats in the Dutch Parliament, and 72 are in favor of regulation—so it's really about a few guys changing their mind, and that will be enough. But we've had this one minister of justice since 2010 who is blocking any kind of progress. Everybody in the Hague agrees that we will have to wait for this guy to resign."

Derry Brett from Barney's concurs, stating emphatically: "The most important thing right now is that the government take a better look at how marijuana arrives in the shops. At the moment, it drops out of the sky. There's no control over it, no checks for toxins, additives, anything—so the health of people smoking is in danger. What the government needs to do is either allow us to grow our own marijuana and have it checked for health and safety, or buy marijuana from a controlled source."

A recent court ruling backs up this notion in defiance of the government's newly prohibitionist tendencies. On October 16, a Dutch court in Groningen found two growers guilty but refused to apply any punishment, since the pair had paid taxes on their income, legally purchased electricity, cultivated without chemicals and sold only to coffeeshops. The ruling stated: "Given that the sale of soft drugs in coffeeshops is tolerated, this means that these coffeeshops must supply themselves, and so cultivation must be done to satisfy these demands. The law does not state how this supply should be done."

Doede de Jong hasn't been as lucky. Busted for the cultivation of hundreds of plants on eight different occasions, he nonetheless refuses to stay quiet or leave the country. Instead, he's determined to put a human face on cannabis growers. After participating in the documentary film

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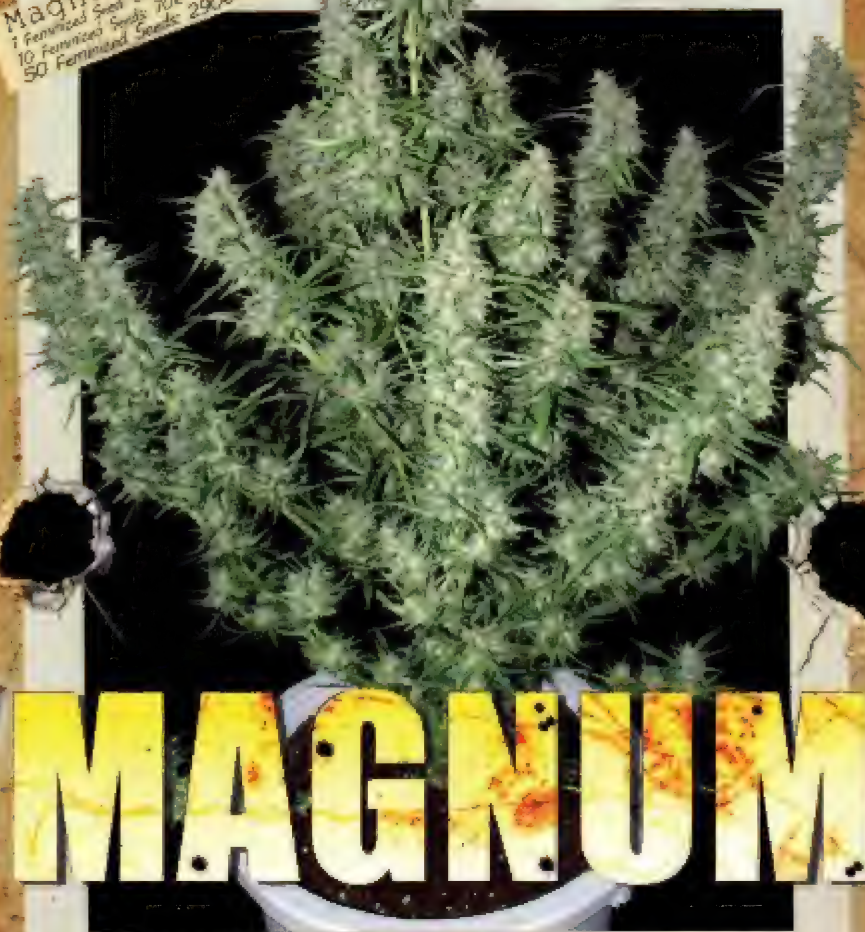


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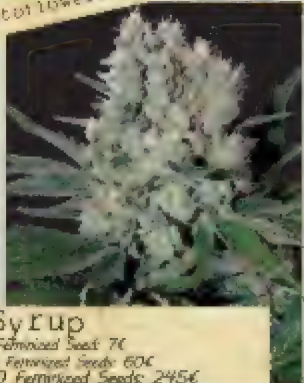
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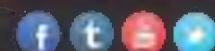
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Nederwriet in 2011, de Jong was busted and sentenced to 100 hours of community service, two years' probation and a fine of over €233,000, based on unrealistic estimates of his illicit profits going back years.

"Now I don't grow more than 10 plants," de Jong sighs, describing how cultivation used to be done on a small scale by dedicated hippies, but now is dominated by criminals who sometimes force immigrants into abusive working conditions or tamper with their product's purity in order to increase its weight. "Quality is important, and now quality goes down the drain," he adds. De Jong is appealing his sentence and hopes for crowd-funding help if the massive fine sticks. "I changed people's perceptions by showing how weird it is that coffeeshops can *sell* weed, but nobody can grow it."

Last February, the Union for Cannabis Retailers organized a gathering in Utrecht that brought together politicians and experts from 35 Dutch towns to create a manifesto in favor of legalized, regulated cultivation, while petitioning the national government for change. "Next year, the government is going to fall, so we'll have a new government and we can take it from there," remarks Arjan, the head of the union. "In the next couple of years, I think it will liberalize more and we will get grow licenses."



AWARDS NIGHT

This year, High Times offered a new incentive for judges to visit every competing coffeeshop: Those who collected a stamp from each one could enter to win an all-expenses-paid trip to Denver for the US Cannabis Cup on 4/20 in 2015. And so a heightened anticipation for this year's awards show just kept building as the Melkweg filled with judges and competitors.

Things started on a definite high note with a surprise appearance by Tommy Chong. Next, representing Alexander and Ann Shulgin as they were inducted into the Counterculture Hall of Fame, researcher Paul Daley told the crowd that "Sasha and Ann ... would be overjoyed to see people celebrate cannabis," before exhorting everyone to become "psychoactivists" and "free the psychedelics!"

See Cup highlights: hightimes.com/Adam2014



Perennial Cup contender Barney's captured several awards, including first-place Nederhash and the Cannabis Cup for Cookies Kush, while DNA Genetics scored big with second-place *Sativa* winner Tangie and third-place *Indica* winner Kosher Kush. Stalwart competitors Green House also walked away with multiple trophies, including the first-place Import Hash prize for their remarkable Super Lemon Haze Cream. Notable newcomers included the Vault Genetics, as well as Vancouver Island natives House of the Great Gardener, who won for their dry-sifted hash and CBD Rene flowers, respectively. And the incredible afterparty featured reggae bands Dirty Heads and Rebelution, allowing Cup-goers to dance the night away.

During my own brief moment onstage, I asked the crowd, "Who's ready to fight for Amsterdam?" to raucous cheers. This was my 10th visit to the Netherlands, and while it's wonderful to see cannabis freedom sprouting in the US and elsewhere, we must also fight to keep our rights in Amsterdam, a city so many of us hold dear. Worldwide cannabis legalization will be a process, not an event, and this year's tumultuous Cannabis Cup was an important reminder never to take our freedom for granted. Until the right to grow, possess and use herb freely is guaranteed to everyone, we will continue to fight. And we'll see you in Amsterdam next year! 🌿



CUP HONOREES

The Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam always brings an unforgettable end to High Times' calendar year. It's our final event before the New Year, and the awards ceremony is our opportunity to recognize top activists for their achievements and to honor iconic figures of the counterculture for their inspiring work.

Robert "Black Tuna" Platshorn received the 2014 Freedom Fighter of the Year Award.



Tommy Chong honored Marc Emery.

He served 30 years in federal prison—the longest sentence ever handed down for a pot "crime"—and hit the activist trail upon his release by organizing the Silver Tour, a campaign intended to bring the message of cannabis freedom to aging baby boomers and golden-agers. Marc Emery was honored with the Lester Grinspoon Lifetime Achievement Award. He earned the title of "Canada's Prince of Pot" for fearlessly distributing seeds across North America. His

company, Marc Emery Seeds, was responsible for more pot gardens in the US and Canada than any other seed broker in the 1990s and early 2000s. Alas, his seed enterprise resulted in a five-year prison sentence, which he finished earlier this year. Immediately upon his release, Marc turned his attention to the battle for pot legalization in Canada and is working feverishly toward Election Day 2015, when he predicts that pot will be legal there from "coast to coast."



Sasha and Ann Shulgin

The induction of the late Alexander Shulgin and his widow Ann into the High Times Counterculture Hall of Fame was handled by Dr. Paul Daley, who worked as a research assistant with the Shulgins. Their work in the field of psychoactive chemicals brought a rational, painstaking scientific method to the world of self-experimentation and psychoactive ingestion. We are proud to honor these outstanding members of our community. *Dan Skye*

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Too Large:

The Rise and Fall of the Norton Boys



Winslow and Abraham Norton in 2008.

At its height in 2007, the Compassionate Patients' Cooperative of California serviced 1,000 customers a day, and grossed \$1 million a week.

Then the Feds came calling. *Story by Chris Simunek. Photos by Freebie*

A simple perusal of *The United States of America v. Winslow Norton and Abraham Norton*—their indictment for the crimes of narcotics conspiracy, possession with intent to distribute, maintaining a drug-involved premises, and a dozen acts of money laundering—would have you believe that “the Boys,” as the Nortons came to be known, were the Tony Montanas of the medical pot biz. In 2004, their first year operating a dispensary, the gross profit of the Compassionate Collective of Alameda County (soon to become

the Compassionate Patients' Cooperative of California) was \$74,000. In 2005, that figure jumped to \$1.3 million. In 2006, profits were in the neighborhood of \$21.5 million. And from January through June 2007—a mere six-month span—revenue topped out at \$26.3 million.

What the indictment didn't mention was that the Norton brothers ran a transparent business with the full blessing of Alameda County and paid millions in taxes to the state of California. That officers from the local sheriff's department dropped by at least once a week to delineate what was and wasn't

acceptable in the eyes of the law also went unmentioned. The indictment laid bare no criminal secrets whatsoever: no underhanded business arrangements, no coded conversations, no hidden money, no street stuff at all.

For seven years the Nortons fought the Feds and, while technically they lost, the reality is that they actually sort of won. Whether they meant to or not, these two kids, who wouldn't have looked out of place slinging sundaes at your local Dairy Queen, struck a crucial blow against the all-powerful federal Drug War machine.

Winslow and Abraham Norton were raised in Berkeley by hippie parents who were pioneers in the organic-food industry back in the 1970s and '80s. In 2001, when Winslow got a medical marijuana card for his chronic migraine headaches, he was taken aback by the lousy quality of the pot on offer in the dispensaries. Seeing a niche, he became a vendor, selling high-grade marijuana to the medical clubs. In 2004, he and his brother decided to open a dispensary of their own. Abraham was 21; Winslow was 24.

"We tried to ask everyone: 'How do you open a cooperative?'" Winslow says. "The advice we got was: 'You just have to do it and see what happens.'"

They rented out a former homeopathic shop in Hayward, a commercial section in an unincorporated area of Alameda County, and applied for a business license.

"The first time the doorbell rang, we got real excited for our first patient," Winslow says. "And it was a representative from the county, who told us the Sheriff's Office was on its way."

The next time the doorbell rang, it was two plainclothes cops who looked to Winslow "like Raiders fans—motorcycle, Harley-Davidson kind of guys." They were goofing around, picking up the weed, throwing it on the scale and asking, "Do you have the Purple? That's what everyone wants nowadays." Before they left, the officers joked that there was a much bigger dispensary down the street and that the Nortons needed to catch up.

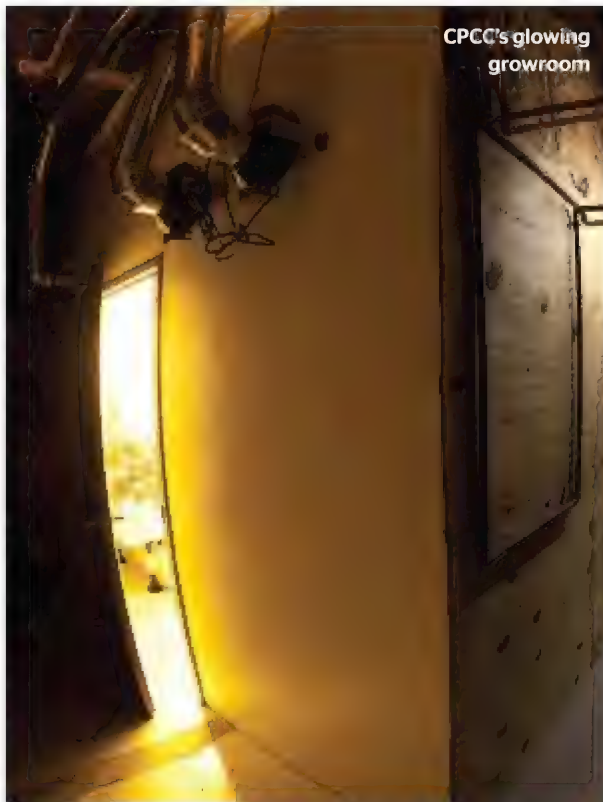
"The dispensaries at the time were kind of price-gouging, selling mediocre pot at too high of a price," Abraham recalls. So the Boys decided to do business a different way. "We figured: Why not reward the growers who grow better pot and give it to patients at a lower price?"

This decision caused the Compassionate Collective of Alameda County to expand rapidly—and when nearby Oakland cut its dispensaries down from 15 to two, previously low-profile medical clubs throughout the Bay Area were deluged with customers, creating traffic problems. As a result, Hayward cut its dispensaries down from seven to three, of which the Norton brothers' club—at this point renamed the Compassionate Patients' Cooperative of California—was one.

To acquire its permit, the CPCC had to get up to code. The Nortons graduated from keeping records on scraps of paper to a \$200K computerized cash-register system that tracked sales, taxes and inventory. They'd read SB 420, which

established guidelines for implementing Proposition 215, and were aware of the fact that, as founders of a cooperative, they couldn't just pocket the money, so they reinvested it in the business. Employees were provided with health and dental insurance and three meals a day. As profits increased, the Nortons slashed their markup, selling medical pot

next door. And when I checked with the sheriff's department, the clientele for the motel was mostly prostitutes, and they weren't going there anymore because of the cannabis dispensary and the security guards that were out in front."



\$100,000 worth of sales came in through the front door, a dozen or so pounds of marijuana entered the back, and it was all legal.

for only 15 to 20 percent above what they were buying it for. They started giving money away to AIDS programs, senior-citizen homes, even a donation to the sheriff's department's annual fundraiser.

Security became a big concern when the club and its patients were robbed at gunpoint during business hours. After a customer was killed in a robbery at a local gas station, the Nortons dropped a few hundred thousand on a state-of-the-art security system and hired armed guards.

Bob Swanson, an aide to the Alameda County Supervisor, remembered them running a responsible place. "I liked them both," he says. "They were concerned about patients. One of the only complaints I had about the dispensary from any businesses was from the motel

During one of their regular visits, officers from the sheriff's department informed the Nortons that according to county regulations, there could be no more than 20 pounds of marijuana onsite at the dispensary, creating a logistical nightmare for the thriving CPCC. In order to comply with the mandate, the Nortons created a cannabis caravan that ran between the club and a storage facility in Oakland that housed up to 300 pounds of marijuana at any given time.

"We had three trailers, with armed guards, that would drive back and forth from the two locations," Abraham explained. "The dispensary employees would be sitting on the computer checking the inventory and saying, 'We need more grams of this, we need more eighths of that'"

By 2006, the CPCC was grossing in excess of \$20 million a year. Splurging on one business-related perk, the Nortons went to the 19th Annual High Times

Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam. They rented a booth and, with nothing to sell, set up a television monitor that ran a live feed from four of their 45 continuously operating security cameras. The screen was split into four parts: One quadrant showed patients entering the club, two more were fixed on the registers where the medicine was being purchased, and the last showed vendors coming in and dropping off the weed. Taken together, they presented a busy picture of the daily transactions of America's largest medical cannabis dispensary: \$100,000 worth of sales came in through the front door, a dozen or so pounds of marijuana entered the back, and it was all legal under the guidelines for Proposition 215, as set forth by the state of California.

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When the Nortons first opened their dispensary, Charles C. Plummer was the Alameda County sheriff, and his office's relationship with the CPCC was pretty good. Plummer was a bit of a legend in law-enforcement circles; it is thought that he'd been a cop longer than any other person in the history of California—over 50 years. When the ordinance was passed putting the number of Hayward's dispensaries down to three, Plummer stated that Alameda County should become a model for the state.

With hundreds of medical cannabis dispensaries operating in the state of California, why was the CPCC—whose operations constituted a gold standard for the business—chosen for prosecution?

But Plummer retired in 2007, and the new sheriff, Gregory J. Ahern, wouldn't be so supportive. In an *Oakland Tribune* story, the sheriff's department called the CPCC "a high-volume nuisance."

The Nortons' meetings with the sheriff's department became increasingly contentious. At one point, they were informed that they could no longer sell edibles. When Winslow argued that their sickest patients needed ingestible cannabis, he recalls being told: "You guys are just looking for more ways to make money. If you guys sell those edibles, the Feds are going to come."

The extent of the contact between the sheriff's department and the DEA regarding a crackdown on the Norton brothers' dispensary is unknown. When the department was asked in 2008 if it had anything to do with steering the Feds in the CPCC's direction, a spokesperson said the department's involvement was limited to providing its SWAT team for support during the raid. The DEA refused to comment. The question remains: With hundreds of medical cannabis dispensaries operating in the state of California, why was the CPCC—whose operations constituted a gold standard for the business—chosen for prosecution?

The prevailing sentiment was that the CPCC had grown too large.



The cooperative's state-of-the-art setup

If the Nortons had a ruling business principle, it was transparency. According to Abraham, "We had an epiphany at one point that we were just going to be up front about everything." All of the money that went in and out of the CPCC was accounted for: paychecks, the day's receipts, even the money paid to vendors. By the end of 2005, however, the one thing that the Nortons still felt vulnerable on was sales tax.

In 2005, *no one* was paying sales tax on medical marijuana—at least not correctly. Cannabis dispensaries were not being audited. Sure, the clubs paid state and federal taxes, but no one was giving the government a strict accounting of

their hand-to-hand pot sales. If there was an area in which they were vulnerable to the Feds, the Nortons believed this was it. So in December 2005, they went down to the State Board of Equalization bearing a check just shy of \$1 million.

"We went there and said, 'We're a medical marijuana club, and we want to pay sales tax on the marijuana ... how do we do that?'" Abraham recalls.

"The guy was giving us other options, like: 'Why don't you just say you charged for the bag and that the marijuana was free?'" Winslow adds. "But we couldn't do that."

A supervisor was brought out to talk to them.

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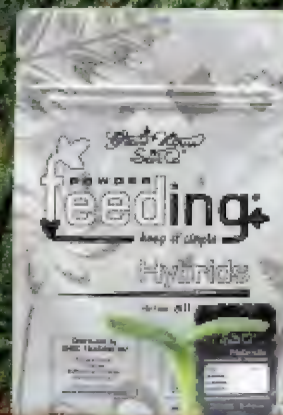
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“One thing we learned about the Board of Equalization is that they really want money,” Abraham laughs. “We told the supervisor, ‘We have a check for a million dollars,’ and he just sort of snatched it out of my hand.”

Shortly thereafter, the Board of Equalization sent out a letter to all of the state’s dispensaries stating that paying the sales tax was now mandatory. The Nortons became pariahs among the other pot clubs, but they felt vindicated.

The Boys started spending money. When their dispensary first opened, they’d been paying themselves \$12 an hour; at its height, they topped their salaries to a respectable (but not exactly Scarface-like) \$150,000 a year. They lived together; combined, their rent was \$1,600 a month. They applied for car loans and bought themselves a Mercedes each. They acquired a few motorcycles, secured a mortgage on a property where they hoped to open another dispensary, and started putting money into IRAs. These expenditures, for the most part, would account for the money-laundering charges in their indictment—because, under federal law, they all involved drug money.

The Boys started getting paranoid.

At the close of every day, a Brinks truck would come and ferry the CPCC’s money to the bank, same as if they were running a Rite Aid or a Burger King. They figured this would deter anyone who was casing the place for a rip-off. Still, they had problems.

“You couldn’t rob the dispensary—there were guards there—so *we* became the most likely target,” Winslow says.

One night, Winslow was followed home; a few men put guns to his head in an attempted kidnapping, but he managed to get away. Then Abraham had an incident up in Humboldt, where he was attacked while looking to buy pot.

During one of the visits by the sheriff’s department, Winslow recalls the cops asking: “Do you guys have guns? If you don’t, you should.”

He wasn’t sure if they were joking.

At first they bought bulletproof vests, but felt stupid wearing them, so they applied for—and received—handgun licenses. Winslow bought a Glock, Abraham a German-made Sig Sauer, both .40-caliber.

“It was probably a bad choice for us, in hindsight,” Winslow admits.

On February 11, 2007, some friends of

theirs called and said they were hanging out with a couple of girls at a bar in Fremont. After the brothers arrived, the party moved to a motel a block away. Joints were passed around. Remembering that he had some beer in his car, Abraham went out to get it. In the parking lot, he noticed four or five men

Winslow replies: “I can’t say for sure, but I sort of feel like maybe they’d heard of us—or maybe our friends were bragging to the girls, saying: ‘Our buddies run a dispensary.’”

“Pot clubs, people like to talk about,” Abraham adds. “We didn’t talk about it, but everyone we knew talked about it.”

Some folks they *didn’t* know were talking about it as well—among them, the DEA.



“I didn’t hear anything about DEA agents,” Abraham says. “I just heard, ‘Motherfucker, open this door or I’m going to blow your fucking head off!’”

watching him from inside an SUV. Having been in this situation before, he knew what was coming next. He went back to the car and grabbed his gun. On the way back to the room, he was ambushed.

“I don’t know what they were trying to rob from me, because they decided to just beat the shit out of me before even taking anything,” Abraham says. “They had guns, I had a gun, and I shot one of the guys.”

Hearing the gunfire, Winslow ran to his brother’s aid and was shot eight times for his trouble. Abraham caught a bullet in the hand. Their friends rushed them to the hospital, where they were interviewed by police. No charges were filed.

It became obvious that the girls had set them up. Asked if the rip-off happened because of who they were,

The security company that the Nortons hired had a few ex-cops on staff who started to hear from their federal friends that the dispensary run by the “two kids” was on their radar. Toward the end of the summer in 2007, one of the drivers in the cannabis caravan abruptly quit, claiming that he’d been stopped en route by the Feds, who had offered to triple his salary if he became a confidential informant. But the Nortons believed that the transparency of their operation and its compliance with the sheriff’s department would shield them.

They were wrong.

At approximately 5:30 a.m. on October 30, 2007, there was a pounding at the front door of the Nortons’ apartment in the Oakland hills. Their first thought was

of another kidnapping attempt.

“I didn’t hear anything about DEA agents,” Abraham says. “I just heard, ‘Motherfucker, open this door or I’m going to blow your fucking head off!’”

According to the brothers, 20 or so agents burst through the door and handcuffed them while they searched the premises. The Nortons were loaded into an SUV and told that if they uttered a single word, the agents would beat the shit out of them, hogtie them and throw them in the back. After spending a few hours in the federal lockup in San Francisco, they were transferred first to Oakland, then to Santa Rita, where they were the talk of the holding cell.

“The other people in prison were saying, ‘Oh, you know, the dispensary—it’s gone,’” Winslow recalls. “And everyone



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Did you know Cannabis was used at the Chernobyl site to help pull radioactive contaminants out of the soil?

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The entire story, along with many other little-known, yet vitally important facts are revealed in a new Bulgarian Academy of Sciences white paper titled:

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... WHILE RAISING BUD WEIGHT, THC, AND CANNABINOIDS"**

The author of the white paper, Julian Karadjov, PhD, reveals facts medical marijuana growers absolutely **MUST** know. Here are just a few...

- The little-known fact that makes Cannabis totally different from other plants and why not knowing this can endanger the lives of your patients!

- Why the nutrients you feed your plants could actually be turning them toxic (make sure you check your bloom boosters for this one common ingredient that could be toxic)

- Exactly which heavy metals are toxic and how to protect your patients from ingesting them (there are some heavy metals that are completely harmless. Get the complete list inside)

- Surprising plant tissue sample results of Berlin, Hash Plant, and White Rhino strains of medical marijuana (goes completely against what most growers think is needed to maximize size, weight and potency!)

- The TRUTH about so-called "Pharmaceutical Grade" salts and chelates

- Why you can't trust regulators and other government "watch dogs" to make sure the hydroponics nutrients you feed your plants are safe

- The 2 biggest MYTHS about natural and synthetic chelators and their role in toxic metal absorption

- How to guarantee—with 100% confidence—that your medical marijuana is as pure and harmless as filtered drinking water

- How the University of Mississippi achieved 21% more yield from their cannabis plants with one simple change to their feeding program

- How to nearly DOUBLE the amount of THC and other cannabinoids your plants produce the very next run you start (new test results from Hedron Analytical Inc.)

- As seen on TV: the dangers of medical marijuana cadmium poisoning (and how to help your patients completely avoid this risk!)

And there's more too... the dangers of "home brew" hydroponics nutrient formulations ... African marijuana cadmium dangers... plus other little-known facts most growers never hear about.

The bottom line is: if you grow medical marijuana and care about the safety of your patients at all (or you use marijuana yourself) then you must read this white paper.

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spoke really highly of it. We didn't say anything; we just sat there quietly. We didn't understand what a big deal it was."

In addition to the brothers' apartment, the DEA raided their dispensary, the storage location and even their mother's house. The Feds seized all of their assets and even forced the State Board of Equalization to repay a \$348,000 wire transfer from the brothers so they could seize that as well. Over the years, that tax debt has been compounded by penalties to the point where, today, the Nortons owe just over \$1 million.

From the start, the Boys refused to plea. It was a brave decision considering that, just prior to their arrest, the proprietors of another state-compliant dispensary busted by the Feds, Luke Scarmazzo and Ricardo Montes of the California Healthcare Collective in Modesto, had taken their case to trial, lost, and were handed a 20-year mandatory-minimum sentence for running a "continuing criminal enterprise."

The brothers fought to delay their trial in hopes that the new Obama administration and the rapidly changing national attitude toward marijuana in general would work to their advantage. In 2008, they said no to a five-year plea deal, infuriating the prosecutors, who apparently threatened to indict their mother and pile on new charges carrying a 15-year mandatory-minimum sentence. The Nortons still refused to cave, and so a superseding indictment came down charging them with the use of a handgun in order to aid a drug conspiracy. Sounds pretty gangster, but the Nortons weren't the ones packing the heat: The Feds' case alleged that the armed security guards employed by the CPCC—many of them former cops, Navy SEALs and marines—were, in effect, flung into becoming gat-slugging corner boys defending the Norton drug empire. Even Charles C. Plummer, the retired sheriff who had supervised the CPCC when it first opened, publicly called the gun charges "bullshit."

Even worse, the new indictment charged the Boys' father, Michael Norton, and their longtime friend and co-worker, Brian Everett, as co-conspirators.

The Feds grabbed Everett as he was taking a test to become a licensed substitute teacher at Laney Junior College in Oakland. "I go outside, and there's the DEA and the US marshal," he recalls. "They drive me around Oakland for 45 minutes to an hour, and all they're saying is: 'You better turn on Abe and Winslow; you better tell us something that we can

use against them or you're going to get 30 years to life.'"

Brian refused to talk, and his loyalty earned him a felony conviction of his own. In 2013, both he and the Norton family patriarch took no-jail pleas and were released on probation.

Looking for support from a sympathetic crowd, the Nortons once again rented a booth at a cannabis event, this time at HempCon 2011 in San Jose. When



Despite their youth, the Nortons rank among the forefathers of the current cannabis zeitgeist.

the Nortons attended the Cannabis Cup in 2006, they were two of the most progressive operators in the marijuana industry; at HempCon in 2011, they felt like a pair of walking anachronisms—talking about mandatory minimums to kids more interested in free dab hits.

"We had T-shirts that said 'FreetheBoys.com' and a petition that we were trying to get people to sign," Winslow says. "And we realized that everybody was partying—you know, celebrating it being legal—and we were kind of a downer."

Distracted Driving Awareness Month proved to be Winslow Norton's Waterloo.

In April of 2013, he was pulled over on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge for talking on his cell phone. In clear violation of his pretrial release agreement, he'd just sold a batch of Girl Scout Cookies to the Harbor-side Health Center. His car was searched, \$15,000 and two pounds of weed were found, and his bail was revoked.

By then, however, the prosecutors were sick of the case, and the Nortons' lawyers were out of options. Both brothers accepted six-month pleas.

Later that August, Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole released a memo stating that, with certain exceptions, the Feds would allow states to implement and enforce their own marijuana ordinances and would no longer prosecute marijuana businesses run in accordance with state law.

The Boys were both in prison at the time.

These days, the Nortons are looking toward the future, but they're hamstrung by their felony convictions and a million-dollar tax lien. Like many before them who have fought the law and lived to tell the tale, the Boys—lifelong hip-hop fans—are turning to music. In 2007, they founded Guerilla Entertainment and have since put out several albums and mixtapes. In early 2015, under the *nom de rap* "Blanco," Abraham will drop his first solo album, *Wigger*.

Considering the massive public support for ending the War on Cannabis these days, it seems unlikely

that there will be any more full-frontal assaults by the Feds on legally operating marijuana businesses—at least not the kind that carry 20-plus-year prison sentences. Despite their youth, the Nortons rank among the forefathers of the current cannabis *zeitgeist*. In two more years, when their probation is up, the brothers hope to work again with the plant that has been their passion for the majority of their lives.

"By that time, hopefully, the contradictions between state and federal law will be cleared up," Winslow says. "I'm not too good with gray areas." ✱



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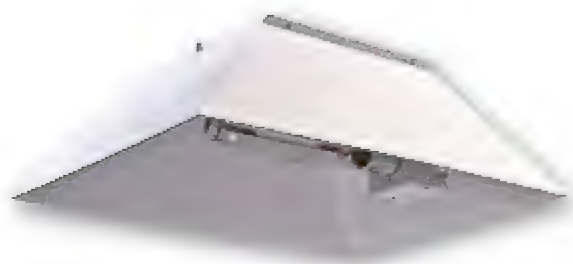
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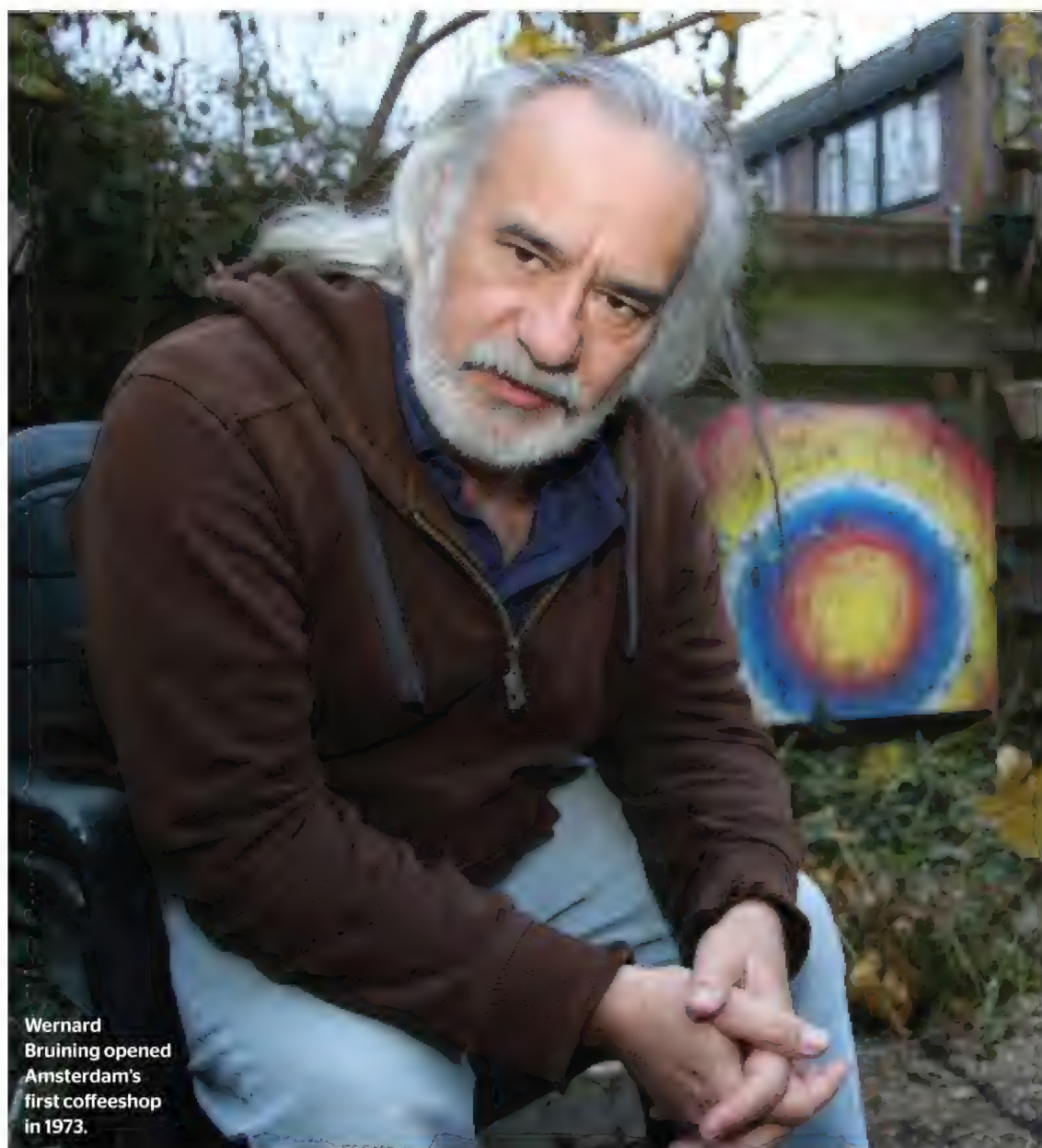


INTERVIEWS BY
SAMANTHA
NICHOLAS

DUTCH MASTERS

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

Over the course of the 27th Cannabis Cup, we spoke with four stalwart members of the Dutch cannabis scene for their perspective on the changes in Holland. Although they're disturbed by recent developments, Wernard Bruining, Ben Dronkers, Nol van Schaik and Simon of Serious Seeds remain optimistic that their nation will return to the forefront of the commercial cannabis industry.



Wernard Bruining opened Amsterdam's first coffeeshop in 1973.

DAN SKYE

Wernard Bruining

opened Amsterdam's first coffeeshop, Mellow Yellow, in 1973. His grow shop, Positronics, was the first in Europe. He now champions marijuana oil as nature's best medicine.

You're the founder of the coffeeshop scene, correct?

At least in Amsterdam—but I was doing it because I thought it was the most logical thing to do. In the old days, it was rather difficult to score hash and grass. You had to either know somebody who was a house dealer—dealing it from his house—or you had to go places where a lot of smokers would be.

Tell us about Mellow Yellow.

It was 1973. We were living together, a group of nine friends in a house—in a room. We were all smokers. In the old days, when you knew where you could score hash, you would buy some and sell it to friends so you could have some for free. So we had a lot of friends come over to our house and buy hash. That was all we were doing—we were hippies. And we would always present them with a

cup of tea. It was a standard joke: “Let’s start a teahouse or a coffeeshop—we can make some money and get stoned at the same time!”

How did the city react when you opened Mellow Yellow?

Not at all. We were fucking careful. Tolerance works when you are very careful. When you say, “Oh, we’re having a coffeeshop where you can buy hash and grass,” you’re closed the next day.

That was 1973. Later came the Bulldog, but we were the first modern coffeeshop. We also had the golden coffeeshop formula: One of us would sit at the bar pretending to be a customer, because the police could arrest the customer but not close down the coffeeshop. So one of us would sit at the bar pretending he was a customer—with a big leather bag. It’s now in the Hash, Marihuana & Hemp Museum in Amsterdam, by the way. We had varieties of hash and grass, all pre-bagged in plastic bags. That was new, because in those days hash was wrapped in aluminum foil. You couldn’t see what was in it; you had to trust the dealer. But we pre-bagged it so you could see what was in it. We valued at the same price: 10 or 25 guilders. That meant anybody could come into our shop and be assured of the quality and a fair and right price.

Right now, the number of coffeeshops is being reduced in Amsterdam.

At the height of the coffee-shop scene, there were probably 1,500—in Amsterdam, about 600. Amsterdam always has a special vibe, but anything you do there is magnified. The authorities always try to control the free atmosphere that radiates from Amsterdam. The authorities don’t like people to have a free mind and a free spirit. They want to control the spirit. What distinguishes man from animals is



“Why do people let others manipulate them? They have this God-given ability to create their own reality.”

freedom of mind and freedom to decide. Free will—that is a God-given thing. The authorities—or the wrong kind of authorities—try to take that away from people by means of religion or politics or ethics or whatever. It’s a constant struggle between the people who want freedom—spiritual freedom—and the authorities who try and control that freedom.

Will the pendulum swing back, so to speak?

Yes, yes. As they focus on Amsterdam, there are other sections of Holland that they’re not looking at... for instance, Haarlem. It’s like a sanctuary—very liberal, very free. There are 16 coffeeshops, controlled by a board formed by the police, local authorities, people from the coffeeshops themselves, people like me and drug counselors. They set up rules, and coffeeshops apply or act according to those rules. They get a permit from the Haarlem municipality. Coffeeshops are no longer raided by police and are allowed to have whatever amounts in the coffeeshop. That’s the way it should be—and in the 16 years of coffeeshops in Haarlem, the police never have any problem. No violence, no nothing.

Are you proud of your legacy?

I’m still surprised that

people think it’s so important. It’s no longer interesting for me. You can fight the authorities as long as you live, but they never give in. In military terms, the smart thing is to go around them. Coffeeshops are important, but what I’m doing now is more important than what I ever did before in the cannabis scene.

What’s that?

I have a cannabis clinic. When your mother, your father, your uncle is using marijuana oil, you win the war. That’s what Mediwiet is about.

Tell us about Mediwiet.

I began to make hash or marijuana oil the same way Rick Simpson did. I found out two things: First, it’s difficult and dangerous the way he’s doing it, with the rice steamer. In his movie, he says, “Don’t try this at home.” Where should you do it, then?

The other thing—once it’s made, you put it in a syringe. But then you have to get it out, which is difficult because marijuana oil is like thick, black peanut butter. You only need a drop the size of a grain of rice. I tried and, instead of a drop, much more came out. I didn’t want to waste any, so I scooped it up and then just put my finger in my mouth, as I saw people do in the movie. Fifteen minutes later, I was *so high*.

I realized two things: I needed to find out how to produce it *and* distribute it, because you can’t advise that to old or sick people. And you can’t give it to children if you have no control over strength. What I do is dilute it with olive oil and put it in a drip-per bottle so you can take one drop exactly.

What do you find this effective for?

Almost everything—Parkinson’s, chronic pain, sleeping problems ... Ninety-five percent of my patients have never seen hash or grass. They have no experience, but these are the people that you need to turn on. The problem with cannabis is fear and the lack of knowledge.

Are mainstream researchers friendly to Mediwiet?

No—and I don’t want them around. I don’t want to waste my energy persuading scientific people or doctors or whatever. I focus my energy on helping people. The endocannabinoid system controls everything in a living creature—human, animal or whatever. There are 120 different cannabinoids; all have a function and have interactions. In the next 20 to 40 years, we’ll find out what the effect of each is and what the interactions will be. I think, in the future, it will be possible to analyze a drop of blood from a person, and a computer will tell you which of those 120 pure cannabinoids will help. In 10 years, we’ll see a complete new way of medicating that I call “cannabinoid-based medication.” It will be a whole new way of approaching medication.

There are maybe 10,000 synthetic medications, but there is no medication available that just makes people feel better—just be in a better mood. When you can give people something that makes them feel better, that’s half the battle won against

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somebody's disease. People have a very big healing capacity, but they need to be in a good mood. A good mood triggers our self-healing capacity.

How do you perceive the struggle for cannabis legalization?

[Laughing] I always say I came from another planet to change things on this planet called Earth. And I'm doing that—that's my job.

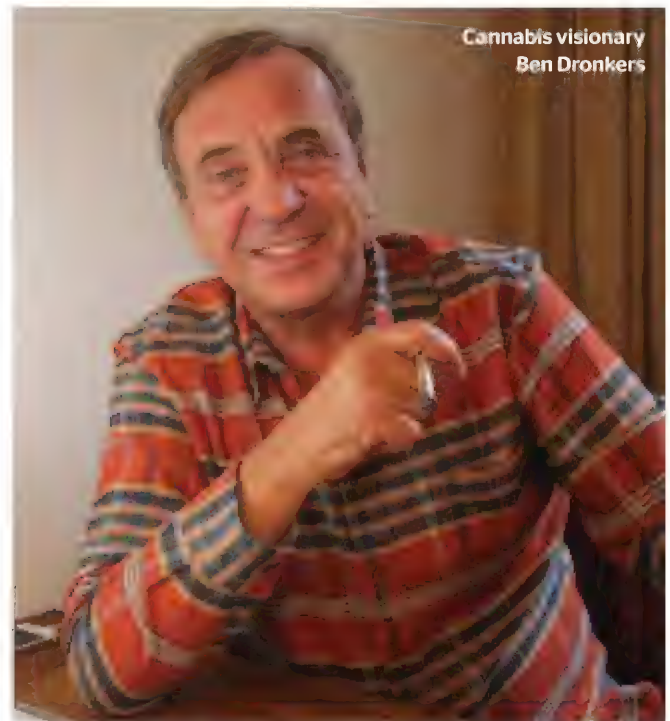
I always look at people on this planet with some sort of astonishment. I wonder why do they act so stupid—why do people let others manipulate them? They have this God-given ability to create their own reality. That's their freedom. Why do they give that away by obeying authorities, by obeying priests or religion or whatever?

Years ago, I thought if you give them something to smoke, you can change their mind. That's what happened to me. I wanted to become a teacher; I wanted to teach school. But after the second year or so, I started smoking cannabis. Then I knew I didn't want to be part of this system that trains people to obey. I'm still a teacher, but in a different way.

Ben Dronkers is the founder of the *Sensi Seed Bank*, *HempFlax*, and the *Hash, Marihuana & Hemp Museum*.

Is cannabis becoming less tolerated in Holland?

It's an up-and-down thing. When we started, it was quite tolerated. We have to thank the minister of health at that time, Irene Vorik—she said people should not be persecuted for it. People started



Cannabis visionary
Ben Dronkers

This is a healing plant. What this plant has brought into my life in the last 40-something years is so amazing.

to smoke and there were festivals, so they let it go. Then coffeeshops came and there was *more* tolerance.

But then, up and down: Politicians, now they're obliged to say it's unhealthy, like the THC content. But that's politicians. We thought we had a very liberal government—at this moment, liberals are in power. How liberal are they? Well, not really.

Does this upset you?

Cannabis is something that will be harder and harder for them to denounce, especially with medical marijuana now. It's more and more international, what we see happening—in Colorado, in Uruguay. You've got the Transform Drug Policy Foundation supported by Richard Branson and the rest, and [former UN Secretary General] Kofi Annan is supporting it. So it's happening ... slowly.

You're one of the pioneers of the Dutch coffeeshop scene. What's it like to be a leader in the cannabis industry?

When I grew my first plants, I loved it: I wanted to grow more and do more of it. They've busted me many times. And I couldn't stop, even when they put me in jail. The judge says, "You don't do it again, right?" and I say, "It will be hard, but I'll try not to do it." But, you know, I couldn't stop. So many miracles come out of this plant.

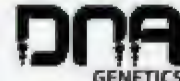
What has the impact of Sensi Seeds been?

We had the good seeds; everybody loved them and took them everywhere. I always say, in the Drug War, we bombard the world with seeds. We have the Hash, Marijuana & Hemp Museum, the info center and Cannabis College. We have a melting pot of cannabis knowledge here.



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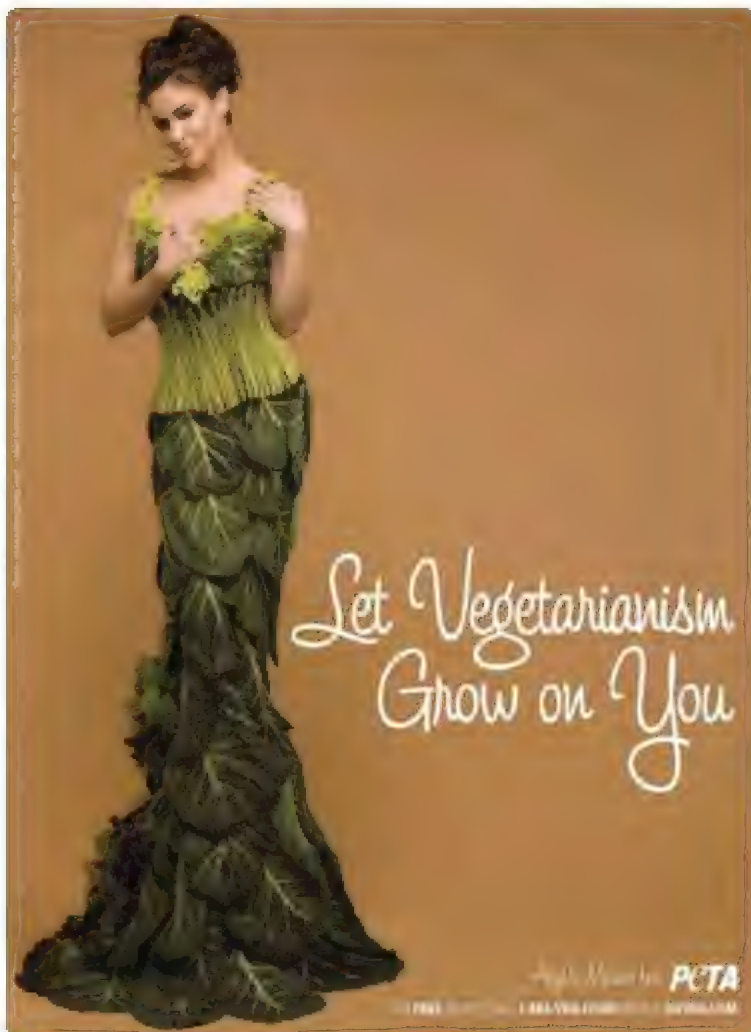
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Do you remain optimistic about the prospect of legal cannabis?

Very much. It's easy to get negative once in a while. What happened with the Cannabis Cup was very negative, and it can make people negative. But we should try to bend it over to the positive side.

I remember a debate with some Christian fundamentalists, an anti-marijuana group. I said, "Tell me what's wrong with marijuana. Tell me one reason why marijuana is forbidden—only one reason!" They never could give it. I'm still waiting for someone to prove what can be wrong with it. Is it wrong that hemp can pull pollution out of the soil? This is a healing plant. What this plant has brought into my life in the last 40-something years is so amazing.

Nol van Schaik is the founder and owner of the Willie Wortel coffeeshops in Haarlem, and he also opened the first coffeeshop in Stockport, UK, in 2001. He is the author of *The Dutch Experience*, which covers 30 years of coffeeshop history.

How do you see your place in the Dutch coffeeshop scene?

I'm more of an activist than a pioneer. Ben and Wernard and other people are the pioneers. I only opened my coffeeshop in 1991—Willie Wortel's Workshop. They

wanted to close me, so I had to defend myself; I had to stand up for what I was doing. I survived the police, the city, the landlords, the tax office—everybody who wanted to close me down and get me out of the building. So by making me stand up for what I believe in, they made me good at it. I decided to keep pushing, and I found out that if you keep arguing with them and give them good arguments, they start listening to you. So instead of just defending myself, I started to push for legalization and push for better government to get more things done our way.

You've certainly led an extraordinary life. How would you describe your beginnings?

I grew up as the oldest of seven kids. My father was drunk every day, so I've always been somebody who had to take care of things for other people. Maybe, genetically, I'm somebody who takes the lead—let's put it that way. At 23, I opened a gym. I went bankrupt twice, ended up in prison. Then I started working construction again, and I was asked to do some refurbishing in a coffeeshop deal for these guys. Then I decided to start my own coffeeshop. I was 38.

Do you think those first 38 years prepared you, in some way, for the coffeeshop industry?

If I like something, I'll

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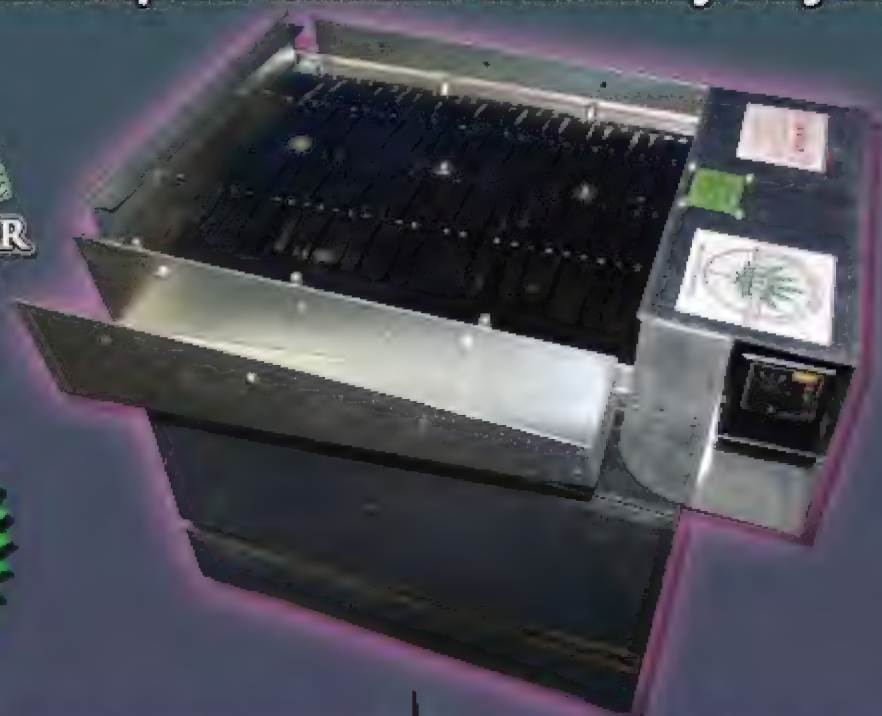
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become a fanatic about it. Like, I started as a fitness trainer in a bodybuilding gym—then I started my own gym and became the national coach. But I was spending too much time on that. It was a volunteer job; I didn't get paid.

Then my partner made a few mistakes at the gym, and I went bankrupt. I robbed a bank and ended up in prison. But I paid my debts—I did four years, and that was a great lesson. I became chairman of the inmate federation; I got my business diploma, my certificates in English, Spanish and German. I made the best out of a situation.

Have you encountered resistance because of your personal history?

Everybody knows about my history—I never hide it. Everybody can make a mistake, but I think everybody is entitled to a second chance. I didn't need a third chance, you know?

What's your take on the current coffeeshop scene?

Amsterdam will never get rid of it ... that's because it's Amsterdam. In Haarlem, we are more or less the model for the Netherlands. We have one coffeeshop for 10,000 inhabitants. That's pretty tight, but we like money. We're the only union that's complete. We act together—that's why we get things done.

I want to be called a businessman—no longer a criminal. But I'm being called a criminal because I have to deal with criminals. Growers are criminals. The small growers have been discouraged because, if you grow in your house, they can throw you out in the street. People don't want to take the risk anymore. We used to hear that Holland had 80 percent weed exports. But now I'm buying it from Germany and Belgium, because I can hardly find it here anymore. They killed a pretty good system.

But we can do it. We're asking for indoor growing—for security reasons, of course—and for growing in greenhouses. And once a season, to do our own hash production, so we can stop the flight of capital to foreign countries completely.



Simon of Serious Seeds

Simon is the breeder behind Serious Seeds, which just celebrated its 15th anniversary. Serious Seeds is responsible for championship strains like the Chronic, AK-47 and Kali Mist.

What's your proudest achievement at Serious Seeds?

Our strains, obviously. Compared to other seed companies, we only have a few. But the names of those strains are so well known that we constantly have to fight against copycats—those selling their seeds using our names.

What is your personal feeling about cannabis?

I think this plant, how do you say, is like a blessing ... a blessing for humanity. It's fantastic, this plant—it gives so much to humanity. Humanity without cannabis goes nowhere, you know.

How do you view the Dutch coffeeshop industry?

I see an industry that is doing its best to organize in a good way, to do the best things possible. But they face stupid rules. The government makes life difficult: If you break one of those rules, you can be severely punished and

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closed. The rules don't serve any other purpose than lowering the number of coffeeshops. This is nationwide, not just in Amsterdam.

Will it get worse?

Maybe in the short term. Ivo Opstelten, the minister of justice wants to go down in the history books as the one who kept cannabis from becoming legal in the Netherlands. Several countries have overtaken us in the acceptance of cannabis, like the States. We were once ahead of the whole crowd, showing how it could be done.

We have a couple of dumb politicians. Other politicians went into coalition with them. They come up with stupid laws, and the coalition is forced to back them. It costs us a lot of money. People become unemployed. And there are only more troubles now. Boys driving around on little scooters, selling illegal drugs to tourists—only bad consequences. The laws serve absolutely no purpose.

What would be the ideal situation for the Dutch cannabis industry?

Growing our own weed under controlled circumstances. We are forced to do business with criminals because they're the ones who are growing. In Holland, you can grow up to five plants of your own in the garden, if you grow without any technical needs—water by hand, no artificial lighting, no artificial anything. If you're a non-professional, you can do that. But it's not the weed you see in the coffeeshops.

The mayors of 54 different cities signed a treaty: They want to start an experiment that deals with cannabis farming for commercial purposes. Recently, two growers in the far north were caught growing cannabis—large-scale. They have been found guilty, but they didn't get any penalties because they did it in

the way that many mayors, many people and many coffeeshops—and the whole Justice Department—would like to see: They didn't steal electricity, and they paid tax on income. So they didn't get any penalty because they did it in this way. Now the case is waiting for the next step: to see if the judge of the higher court will back us up.

There are also several cases awaiting coffeeshops who have had more than the allowed amount [500 grams] on their premises. It's crazy for them to work with only 500 grams. A constant supply

"The Justice Department is sort of tired. As a whole, it says: 'Go and arrange it in a good way. We're tired of you guys.'"

of new weed must be brought in from not too far away. They have spaces to store it, and the police found this out and made a case. According to the system, those coffeeshops didn't live up to the rules. But, logically, 500 grams is not enough for a day—or even a few hours. They constantly had to bring in new weed.

The coffeeshops try their best: They talk to local authorities, the mayor, the police. They've been doing this for years ... *now* you take them to court? And they're found guilty, but they don't get any penalty because they try their best. There are several cases like that. C'mon, do something! But I think the Justice Department is sort of tired. As a whole, it says: "Go and arrange it in a good way. We're tired of you guys now."

We have a coffeeshop system. It has been shown to be a good thing: There are fewer junkies, and there are *not* higher amounts of young people smoking cannabis. There are no bad results from the coffeeshop system. ✱



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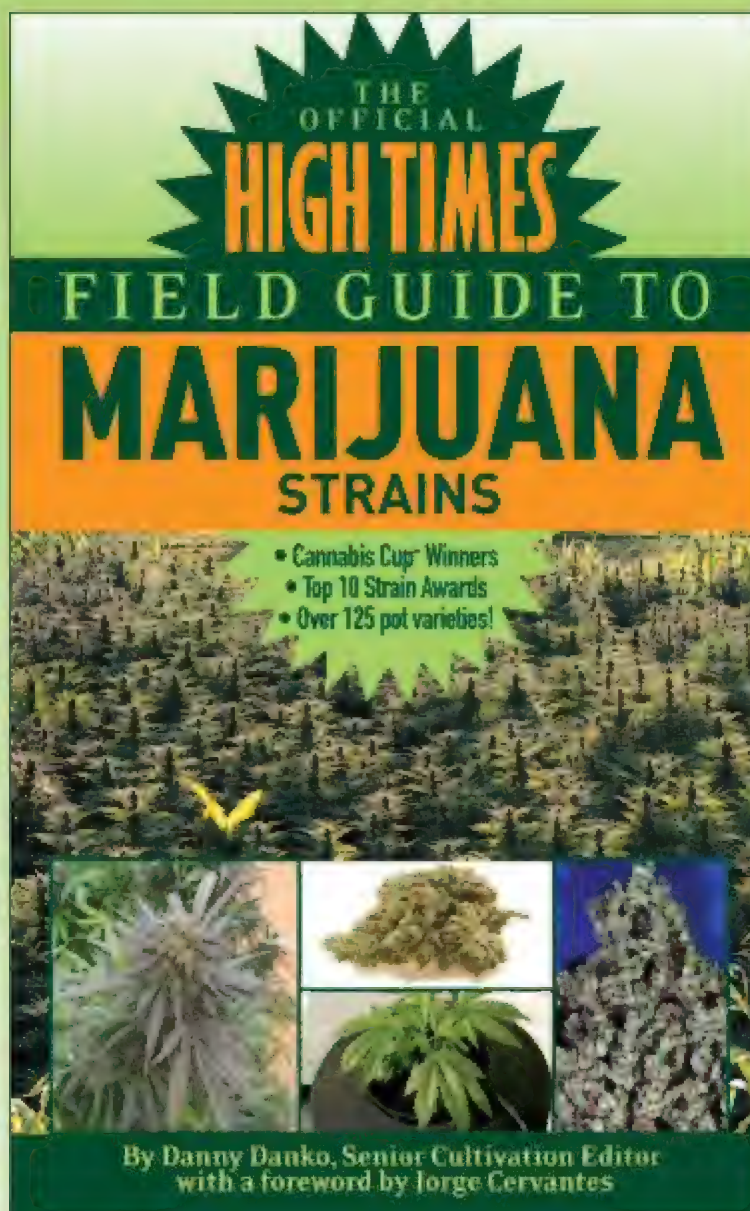
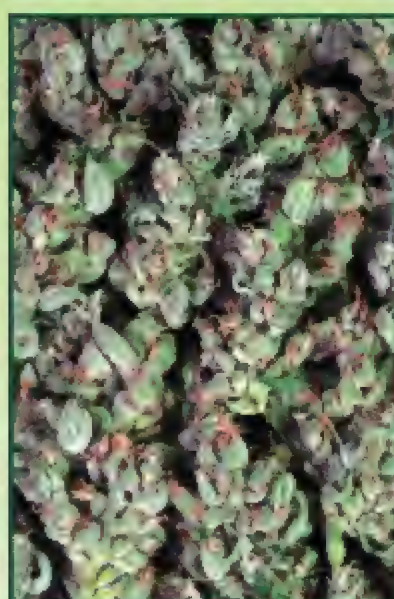
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SUBJECT: **Strain for Burns**

FROM: **Kristy x Down Under**

🌿 I'm hoping you can help me. My brother was badly burned in a workplace accident. The doctors and hospitals have loaded him up with some really hardcore painkillers, and I'm worried. I am new to the world of weed and have just started my first-ever grow with two plants, Strawberry Cough and Kush... so far, so good. But now my attention is focused on what plants I can grow to help my brother—something that helps with muscle and nerve pain. Can you point me in the right direction? We're coming into our summer here, so I'll be able to do an outdoor soil grow.

Dear Kristy,
Indica strains work best for people suffering from burns because of their bodily effects. A few years back, my friend Rudy Reyes brought a group of burn survivors to the High Times office. It turned out to be one of the most important experiences of my career (and also when I learned to refer to them as “burn survivors” and not “burn victims”). Their recollections of what happened to them and their vehement support for medical marijuana solidified my commitment to making sure that anyone who wants access to this healing plant can get it.

I forwarded your question to Rudy, and this was his response: “Danny, smoking *indicas* does work best in regard to burns. I myself am an OG Kush specialist. I've found it helps with the pains and works as an antidepressant very well. I've found that *sativas* work best as topicals and help to relax the body's nerve damage. But for the head, it's all *indicas*. I've come to learn that a mixture of both keeps the simple balance needed to stay on the path to healing. I hope this advice helps others, and thank you, Dan, for the chance to spread this knowledge.”



OG Kush soothes
pain caused by
burns.

Danko Tip: Flat white paint on the walls of your grow space works better than hanging reflective material.

Bud rot devastates flowering colas.



SUBJECT: Oxygenated Roots

FROM: JD

I've heard people online suggest using 3% hydrogen peroxide in hydroponic grow reservoirs. But what about using hydrogen peroxide in soil mixes? I believe I've heard that you can't do that, but is there any other way to oxygenate the soil in soil grows? Or is it as simple as poking holes in the soil around where the roots are?

Dear JD,
I would advise against using hydrogen peroxide in soil grows, particularly when "living organics" techniques are employed; too many beneficial microorganisms would be harmed for my tastes.

The best way to ensure that a soil grow is well oxygenated is to use a loose, airy soil that allows air to penetrate the root zone. Adding things like perlite, vermiculite, grow rocks, coco coir or cured compost will help to loosen up a clay-like soil.

Overwatering can also choke out roots and keep them from getting enough fresh air along with their nutrient solution, so be sure to allow your soil mix to dry out between waterings. Proper drainage can be achieved by placing a layer of rocks at the bottom of your containers as well. Breeding master Soma also has an interesting method for his grow beds: He uses vertical PVC tubes to get oxygen to the root zone.

SUBJECT: Bud Rot

FROM: Sticky

I've been growing outdoors for several years but recently ran into a serious problem: After an unusually wet late summer/early fall, my flowers seem to be developing some sort of mold. Parts of the colas suddenly start to appear brown, and the brown part seems to spread throughout the buds very quickly. I've been cutting out the affected parts, but now I'm losing close to half my harvest to this plague. Is there anything I can do to prevent this in the future? Also, is it safe to smoke the unaffected buds?

Dear Sticky,

Bud rot is a serious issue and certainly not one to take lightly. There are a few things you can do to mitigate or avoid the problem. One is to grow in a greenhouse or hoop house so that rainwater can't accumulate within your colas. Shake off any branches with visible wetness on them as well, even in the enclosures, because high humidity can cause liquid to build up, and this is how molds thrive. If you insist on growing outdoors, cover the plants temporarily before any rainstorms and in the mornings, when dew can accumulate.

You're right to cut off any moldy or rotten parts that you can see in order to keep the bud rot from spreading, but the fungus that causes it isn't always visible, which means the rot can spread even after you've removed all the visibly affected parts. As for smoking buds from a mold-infested grow, I would never recommend it, especially for people who use medical marijuana due to compromised immune systems. Airborne fungus spores in your lungs aren't my idea of a safe smoking experience—and since the buds don't have to be visibly affected to still have spores on them, you would be smoking them at your own risk.

SUBJECT: Pot Store

FROM: Jay A.

I just purchased a 24.6-foot chest freezer as well as a two-in-one Foodsaver to take the air out of regular, wide-mouth Mason jars for my bountiful harvest from this past fall. My question is: What would be the ideal storage temperature? Would it

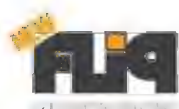


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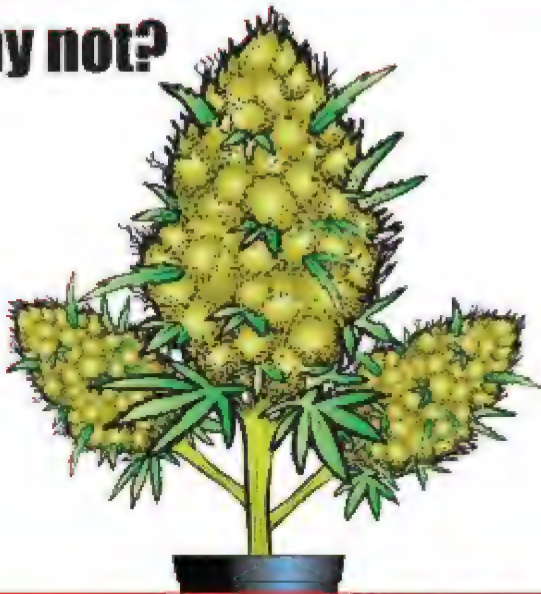
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be refrigerator temps of 35°F to 38°F, root-cellar temps of 40°F to 45°F, or freezer temps of 0°F to 20°F? I know the reason you don't freeze lettuce is because of its high water content: The cells expand and the cell walls are thin—although you can freeze corn and peas, which I presume is because of thicker cell walls. From my experience, dried and cured medical marijuana is about 5% to 9% moisture, so it should not degrade when frozen as long as it's stored in Mason jars and not handled. If stored and frozen in Ziploc bags and handled, it seems the trichomes would fall off quite easily, since you add ice to make bubble hash. Please tell me what you recommend as the optimal storage temperature.

Dear Jay,

In my opinion, marijuana should never be stored at refrigerator or freezer temperatures. The optimum short- or long-term storage situation for marijuana is in a cool, dark place—not unlike the root cellar you mentioned, although the jars or bags should be completely sealed to keep moisture from getting in. The actual level of moisture for dried and cured medical marijuana is a bit higher than the range you mentioned—closer to 20%. That's why you don't ever want to freeze your pot. Also, always store your buds in opaque glass jars and never in Ziploc bags.

SUBJECT: **Water Board**

FROM: **Corey B.**

My question to you is this: You recommend testing the water/nutes for their ppm and pH levels before watering soil-grown plants, and then testing the runoff for the same thing. But what exactly am I looking for here? What are optimum results that should occur?

Dear Corey,

The pH level (i.e., the acidity or alkalinity) of the water or solution should be about the same going in as it is coming out. Right around 6.2 is perfect for plants grown in soil and soilless mixes, 5.5 for hydroponics. Low or high pH in the runoff water indicates low or high pH in your soil mix that must be adjusted for the plants to thrive.

Before watering, the ppm levels will depend on your plants' stage of life. Seedlings or freshly rooted clones should get 300 to 500 ppm (parts per million) of nutrients. Healthy vegging plants can handle up to 1,000 ppm, and flowering plants up to

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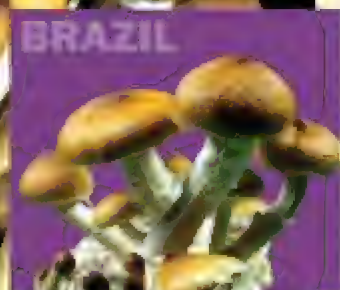
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Danko Tip: The temperature at canopy level is higher than ambient room temps and should never exceed 80°F.

1,500. Of course, during the flushing period (the last two weeks of flowering), the ppm should be as low as possible.

But keep in mind that the ppm level will always be lower in the runoff, and that's an indication that your roots are absorbing the necessary elements. If the ppm of your runoff is higher than what you're pouring in, that could be an indication that your plants have been overfed, in which case you need to flush out your grow mix with plain water to avoid nutrient burn.

SUBJECT: **Mother, May I?**

FROM: **Josh**

I'd like to know more about growing and caring for mother plants. For example, I grow with hydro, but I'm wondering if growing my mothers in soil would make more sense. Also, what kind of nutrients and feeding schedule should I be using—I'm guessing something less heavy for slower growth? Could a lighter version of Subcool's soil recipe be used? And what type of lighting do you recommend for healthy moms?



Motherplants stay in their vegetative stage forever.

Dear Josh,

Successful marijuana gardening with clones requires healthy mother plants from which to take the cuttings. I always recommend that mother plants be grown in soil or soilless mixes rather than hydroponically for most people. Soil is far more forgiving than hydro, so the plants have a better chance of long-term survival and stability.

The smallest container I recommend for mother plants is a 5-gallon bucket. Since the plant will be alive for a long period of time, the roots need plenty of space to spread out, and root-bound moms will not be nearly as healthy and productive as ones that have room to expand.

As for nutrients, stay on the lighter side and water with plain water frequently to avoid salt buildup. If you notice any deficiencies, such as a yellowing of leaves, amp up the nutes accordingly. Subcool's mix is pretty "hot"—meaning the nutrient levels are high and can burn young plants that aren't ready for that level of feeding. You can use a lighter version of that or just plain Pro-Mix for healthy moms. If you want to do hydro moms, keep them in individual buckets (deep-water culture or DWC would work well), and make sure the roots are well oxygenated.

The lighting for mother plants depends on how frequently you plan to take cuttings. For infrequent cloning, you can keep your moms under fluorescent tubes or compact fluorescent (CF) lighting. For faster-growing mother plants that can produce many healthy cuttings more frequently, use a 400-watt metal halide (MH) light. This will ensure vigorous and thriving mother plants capable of giving you healthy cuttings as often as you might need them. ✨

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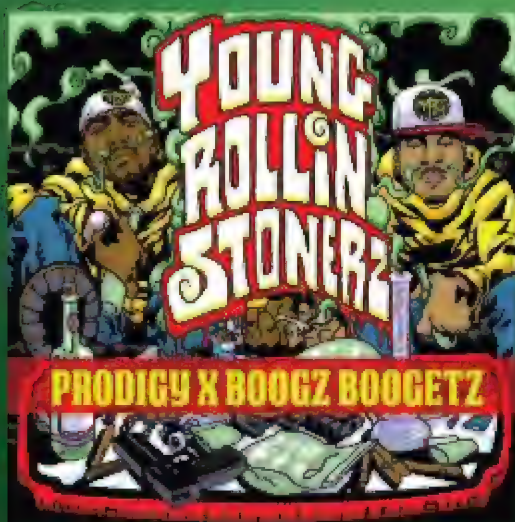
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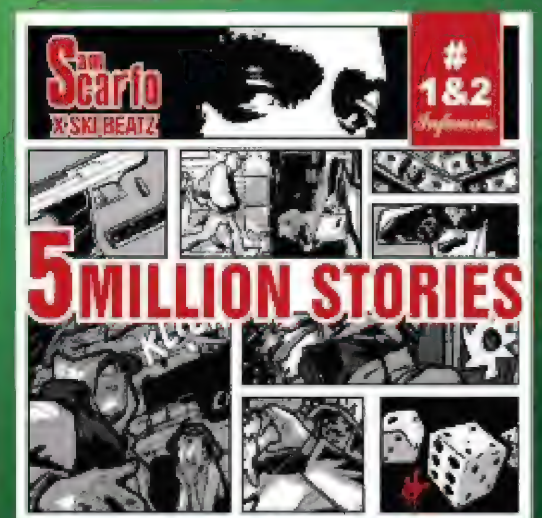
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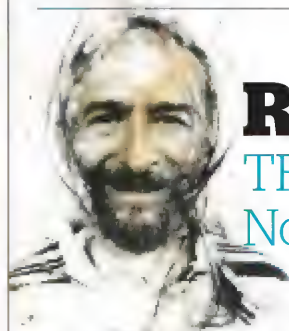
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Reefer Reality

THC, HIV, DARE and North Korea

Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

Do states with medical marijuana laws end up having plants higher in THC?

Green Lantern

Hi Green,
The evidence suggests not: Plants confiscated by law enforcement in medical states were only 0.5 percent higher in THC than in prohibition states. If medical states have stronger plants, they must be keeping them hidden from cops.

I've heard that marijuana can cure HIV. Wonderful news!

Herb L. Wrap

Hi Herb,
Let's not get ahead of the data. Daily cannabis users had a lower viral load than comparable folks, but only in one study. It's true that daily users with HIV/AIDS don't run into problems keeping up with their medication or maintaining their weight, but this is hardly a cure for AIDS. The plant doesn't prevent the spread of the disease, so keep those condoms handy!

My fifth-grader came home with her first DARE workbook. Didn't we prove that this stuff is nonsense?

Auntie Dare

Hi Auntie,
The old DARE didn't decrease drug use, so the program has gotten several make-overs, including the "Keepin' It Real" campaign—which ended up backfiring, making kids think that drug use was more common than it



actually is. The fifth-grade curriculum is fairly innocuous; it doesn't even mention marijuana much. But I'd rather they spent the time getting students excited about academic subjects, which would likely buffer them against developing problems even if they did end up experimenting.

Is marijuana really legal in North Korea?

Red Ize

Hi Red,
I've never been there, but it hardly sounds like Amsterdam. A couple of media outlets have reported that the plant is ubiquitous and inexpensive in North Korea, but others insist that it's a cheap, greenish, uncured tobacco that looks a lot like cannabis. So while the enforcement of marijuana laws might be lax in North Korea, I wouldn't recommend it as a destination for marijuana tourists. 🌿

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, PhD, is a professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana.





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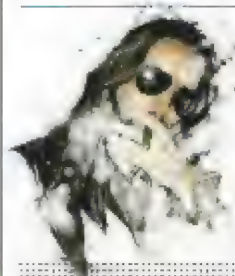
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Nicked in the Netherlands

I never imagined I could be busted for weed in Amsterdam—until I was.

If you've read the Cannabis Cup feature on page 73—or were following the updates online—you know that Amsterdam officials unfortunately shut down the expo portion of the event this November. What you may not know, however, is that even before Holland's government shifted to the right and the coffeshop crackdowns began, I had my own little run-in with the Dutch *politie*.

It was a cold and rainy November morning in 2006, and pre-registration for our 19th Cup had just begun at a small club across from the Melkweg. Throngs of judges were arriving in town after many hours of traveling and were queued up along the street to pick up their passes. To placate the wet and weary crowd, Cup founder Steve Hager handed me a bag of weed and instructed me to walk the line and hand out nuggets. Initially, everything worked out great, but as I neared the bottom of the stash, two tall Dutch dudes suddenly accosted me—and it wasn't weed they were after.

"Come with us, please," one of them said in a stiff Dutch accent. "You are under arrest."

"Arrest?!?" I asked. "What for?" "For distributing cannabis in public."

As unbelievable as it seemed, I was being busted for weed... *in Amsterdam!*

"Okay... I just need to inform my boss what's happening."

"No—you must come right now."

"Please," I pleaded, "I'm here working an event. My colleagues are right inside here... I just need to tell someone, or they won't know where I am."

They finally agreed and escorted me inside. Luckily, the first person I saw at the registration desk was our lawyer Dave Holland (yes, that really is his name).

"Uh, Dave? I'm... being arrested. They're taking me to the station down the block."

"What?!?" he replied. "Um, okay... I'll be down there as soon as I can."

I was taken to the precinct on the next corner, where I was processed and placed in a holding cell. I lay down on the cot, shut my eyes and tried not to think about those terrifying *Locked Up Abroad*



stories I'd seen on TV. Within 20 minutes, I heard Dave's voice echoing down the hall. I listened intently, hoping in vain to hear the conversation—until, after another 10 minutes or so, I heard Dave laughing and breathed a sigh of relief. Sure enough, a few moments later, an officer came and escorted me up front.

"I explained the situation, and they're not going to charge you," Dave informed me. "You're being released... assuming you agree to not hand out any more weed."

Whew! All that remained now was to reclaim my belongings and be on my way. Like the opening scene from *The Blues Brothers*, the cop began sliding my possessions to me one at a time under the bulletproof-glass window: wallet, cell phone, key ring, 275 euros... but when he reached the last item—a tiny bag filled with several different kinds of hash—he paused.

"Hashish, 4.7 grams," he said sternly. "The legal limit for cannabis is five grams," he added, then slowly slid the sack under the glass. "See that you don't exceed it."

I nodded in compliance, stuck it in my pocket and was on my way. As I followed Dave out the door, I turned to him and smiled.

"Can you believe that?" I asked. "They gave me my hash back!"

Dave just shook his head, chuckled and said, "Only in Amsterdam!" ✨

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UN-believable

Pot legalization may be just around the corner, but the United Nations disapproves.

Allen St. Pierre, executive director of NORML. Visit norml.org.

The average US cannabis consumer or cannabusiness owner has no idea that a United Nations treaty exists banning cannabis use, production and sales. So the question is: What role does the UN treaty play in countries whose citizens have voted for legally binding initiatives that replace cannabis-prohibition laws with tax-and-regulate policies?

In October, the Brookings Institution published a paper examining this question. Brookings scholar Wells Bennett and John Walsh of the Washington Office on Latin America highlighted the role of the UN's International Narcotics Control Board, writing that after the 2012 votes in which Colorado and Washington legalized adult recreational use, the board's then-president, Raymond Yans, "warned bluntly that permitting recreational use of marijuana 'would be a violation of international law, namely the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, to which the United States is party.' He also asserted that the 'United States has a treaty obligation to ensure the implementation of the treaties on the entirety of its territory.' No one was surprised, then, when the Board's annual report covering developments in 2013 (released in March 2014) also disapproved of the legalization and regulation move as 'not in conformity' with the drug treaties, and recommended that



the United States fully implement its treaty obligations 'on its entire territory.' Together, the Board and Yans gestured in the direction of a legal argument: with the repeal of state-level prohibitions, on the one hand, and the elaboration of accommodating federal enforcement criteria, on the other, the United States had established a zone in which marijuana indeed could be cultivated, sold, bought, and possessed for purely recreational purposes, contradicting the treaty obligations not to do so."

Last September, in its yearly "presidential determination" on international drug trafficking, the Obama administration issued a direct rebuttal of the UN's condemnation: "The United States shares the view of most countries that the UN drug conventions—without negotiation or amendment—are resilient enough to unify countries that often hold divergent

views of the causes of the international narcotics problem, while at the same time providing a framework upon which to build the best solutions to it. The UN drug conventions, which recognize that the suppression of international drug trafficking demands urgent attention and the highest priority, allow sovereign nations the flexibility to develop and adapt new policies and programs in keeping with their own national circumstances while retaining their focus on achieving the conventions' aim of ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, preventing abuse and addiction, and suppressing drug trafficking and related criminal activities."

This rebuke of the International Narcotics Control Board's admonitions to the United States (and any other country seeking to reform failed drug laws) acknowledges the obvious: that nations can be largely compliant with the existing treaty language, while enjoying flexibility based on changing public attitudes, scientific discoveries and responsive local politicians.

Should the UN disagree, however, a final question remains: As with other matters in which the international organization involves itself, what—if any—enforcement measures can the UN impose on countries that choose not to conform? 🌿

FREEDOM FIGHTER

By Erik Altieri, NORML communications coordinator

A Future for Farms

An activist looks to legalization for economic recovery.

Phil Bourgeois arrived in Washington, DC, to become a NORML volunteer during his senior year at the State University of New York in Brockport. A political-science major, Bourgeois had researched the anti-drug propaganda he'd been fed for years and become outraged by the government's

wasteful and racist enforcement policies. He recognized that the War on Drugs was particularly harsh on people of color and the downtrodden and dedicated himself to the fight for equality—racial and economic.

During the 2014 election, Bourgeois assisted NORML by coordinating phone banks in support of legalization initiatives, handing out



materials to voters, writing scripts for volunteers, and conducting research into the impact of marijuana prohibition in Alaska, Oregon and DC.

"The War on Drugs is one of the biggest civil rights violations of our time," Bourgeois says. "But I feel that the movement is gaining momentum, and there will be no slowing it down."

Raised on an upstate New York farm, Bourgeois plans to fight for marijuana legalization in his home state. His hometown is in Otsego County, the second poorest in New York State. However, the county is blessed with ample farmland. "It's a very tight-knit, supportive community, but economically, we've been left in the dust," Bourgeois says. "Legalization could make our farms profitable in a time when farmers are dependent on subsidies."



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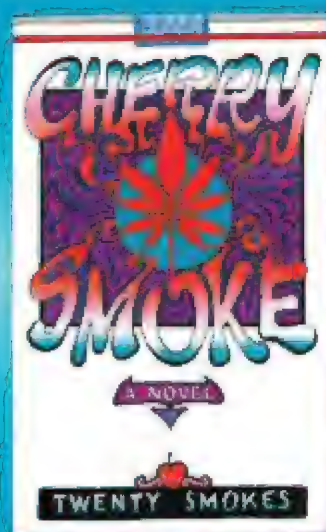
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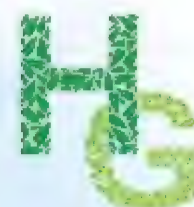
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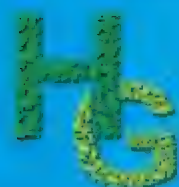


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**NUG OF THE MONTH****Did I Grow That?**

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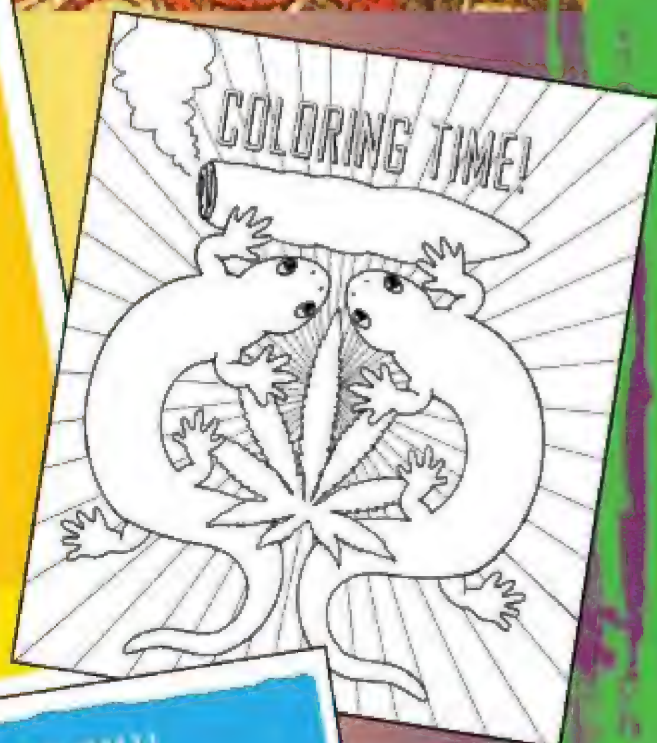
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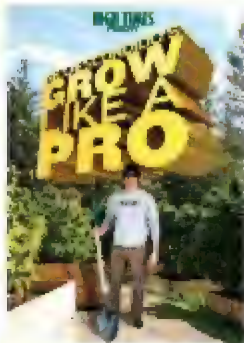


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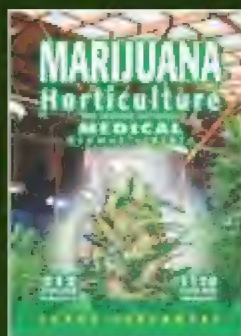


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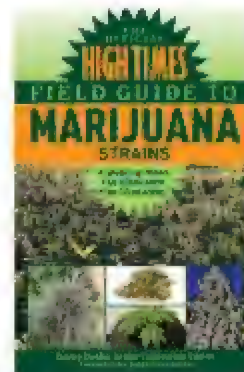


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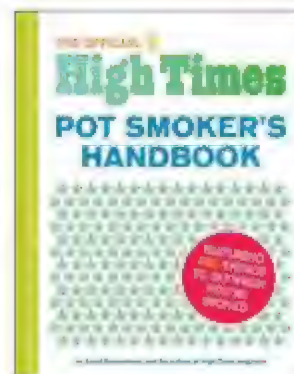
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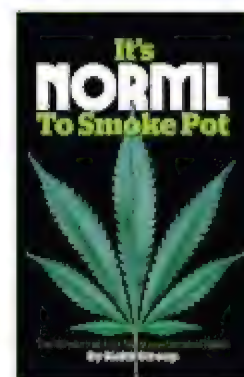
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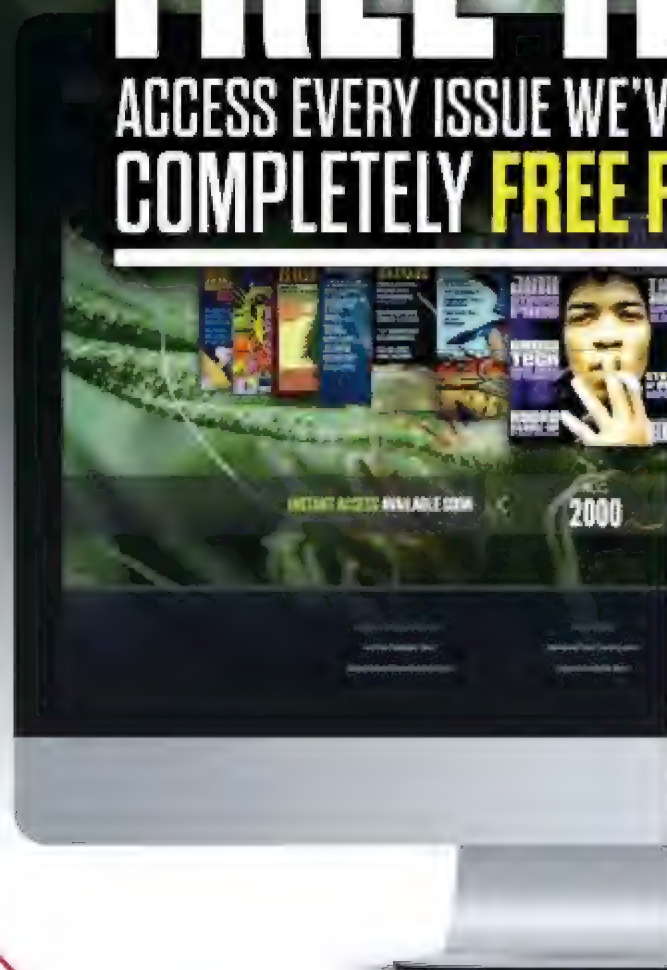
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